

Health Policies

The use/abuse of alcohol, tobacco and other drugs by children or adults is prohibited on or within school properties or at school functions. The use of alcohol and other drugs constitutes a hazard to the positive development of children. Drug abuse is defined as "the ingestion of a substance in such a way that it interferes with a student's ability to perform physically, intellectually, emotionally, or socially." A support team is available to assist students experiencing substance abuse issues. The complete policy is available on request.

Immunizations are required for all students against polio, diphtheria, tetanus, pertussis, measles, and rubella. Diseases that can be prevented by immunization are an unnecessary hazard to the health of children in the classroom, to their families, and to others in the community. Vermont Law (Title 18 VSA, §1126) requires us to exclude any student who has not been immunized within the specified time, or applied for an exemption for religious or medical reasons. The school nurse has more information.

Medical appraisals are also required for each student prior to entering school for the first time; the exam must have been completed within the last year. Please have your physician report the results of the examination to the school nurse no later than one month after school entrance.

If your child requires medication, please try to arrange the dosage schedule so that it can be given at home. If a child is required to take **medication during school hours** and the parent cannot be at school to administer the medication, only the school nurse, principal, administrative assistant, or person designated by the principal will administer the medication. We require written instructions from the physician and a written request from the parent; we ask that the parent transport the medication in original packaging. The school retains the right to reject requests for administration of medicine. For further information and a parent permission form, contact the school nurse.

Participation in Physical Education is expected of all children; please send in a written note if there is a compelling reason why your child needs to be excused on a particular day. The principal may require a written statement from a physician to excuse a child for a prolonged period.

Head lice continue to be the most prevalent childhood communicable disease among American children, and outbreaks are possible wherever children gather. Children between 3 and 12 are most vulnerable to this parasitic infection, and for this reason the board has decided that any student with *lice or nits* will be excluded from school until the condition has been corrected. The key to a school's success in preventing and controlling head lice outbreaks is a strong partnership among parents and school staff. Please note that any student with lice or nits will be excluded from school until the condition has been corrected.