



SCOLIOSIS PARENT LETTER

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Pennsylvania School Law requires that a screening for scoliosis be performed on all children in grades 6 and 7. Screenings will be conducted on 9/10/2024.

The purpose of the screening program is to detect possible curvature of the spine in children. Scoliosis, the most common spinal abnormality, is a sideways curvature of the spine. Most cases of spinal curvatures are mild and only require ongoing observation by a physician after the diagnosis has been made. Mild curvatures are often only noticeable to those trained in detecting spinal abnormalities. Other curves may become progressively more severe as the child continues to grow. If the condition is detected early and appropriately treated, progressive spinal deformity may be prevented. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity which can later affect the health and appearance of the child.

The screening test is very simple and can be performed in less than a minute. The school nurse will check your child's back by observing it while your child is standing and bending forward. You will be notified **ONLY** if medical follow-up is necessary. This screening does not replace your child's need for regular health-care check-ups. For this screening, boys and girls will be screened separately and individually. To assure a view of the spine, students will be required to expose their backs during screening. It is recommended that boys wear a shirt that can be easily removed. Girls should wear a bra, or bathing suit top under a shirt that can be easily removed.

Students who have a physical **submitted to the school and on file for this school year** and who have been adequately screened for scoliosis will not require an additional screening.

Respectfully,

Nurse Alberta Joyce-Bell
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