



2019-2020 Newsletter

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Welcome to The Walnut Ridge School! I am looking forward to working with you and your children during the 2019-2020 school year. I want to take this opportunity to share a few items with you to ensure your child's health and safety:

HEALTH CONCERNS: Please inform me of any severe allergies, surgeries, accidents or new health problems that occurred during the summer months or which may occur during the school year.

MEDICATIONS: Any student who requires medication (prescription or over-the-counter) to be administered during the school day **MUST** have a physician's order on file in the health office. Please note that cough drops are considered over-the-counter medication and as such, require a physician's order for the nurse to administer. A new physician's order is required at the start of **each** school year. All medicines must be delivered to the school and picked up by a parent or legal guardian in the original prescription bottle or box with the student's name clearly labeled on it.

For your convenience, the required medication forms for the management of Asthma, Diabetes, Anaphylaxis and other medications can be found under the Parent's "**Health Office Forms**" section of the vtsd.com website.

ILLNESSES: Students who are not feeling well should **NOT** be sent to school. Parents will be notified if a child becomes ill at school. The child will be sent home if there is an elevated temperature, if others may be exposed to infection or if the illness is such that the child cannot participate in classroom activities. Parents are responsible to provide transportation for students who are being sent home due to illness when they are notified.

Please review the **Vernon Township Public School Guidelines for Keeping Sick Children Home from School** and the **Health Condition Reference Guide** for further information on when your child should stay home from school. (Attached or on the vtsd.com under the Walnut Ridge Health Office webpage)

ABSENCES: Please call Mrs. DiCarlo at (973) 764-6327 to report an absence. Please state your child's name, classroom teacher and reason for the child's absence. The attendance officer will call the parents of absent students, unless the school is notified about the absence.

Any student returning from an absence must bring a note from a parent or physician stating why the child was not at school. This helps me track clusters of illnesses.

Students returning to school following a communicable illness (i.e. head lice, chicken pox, strep throat, pink eye, ringworm, impetigo, scabies) must be seen by the school nurse before returning to class. For these conditions, a physician's note stating the child is clear to return to class is required (No MD note needed for head lice).

RECESS: Our students often go outside for recess. Therefore, it is very important that they come dressed appropriately in the colder months (i.e. coats, hats, gloves, etc.) as they will be going outside throughout the winter months, weather permitting.

ACTIVITY EXCUSES: Parents may write a note excusing their child from physical activities for a **maximum of 2 days. If students need to be excused from activities for more than 2 days, a physician's note is required.**

SCREENINGS: As required by law, the school nurse will conduct the following screenings annually: hearing, vision, height, weight, body mass index (BMI) and blood pressure when given parental/guardian permission. Permission is given by the parent/guardian on Genesis. Additional screenings for hearing and vision may be conducted if indicated during the school year. These screenings, however, are not meant to take the place of an examination by your child's personal physician. If the results of any screening are not within normal range, parents/guardians will be notified. If you have any specific concerns about the screening results, contact either your child's primary care physician or the school nurse.

REQUIRED ANNUAL INFLUENZA VACCINE:

According to New Jersey Administrative Code:

8:57-4.19 Influenza vaccine

*Children six months through 59 months of age attending any licensed child care center or preschool facility on or after September 8, 2008 shall annually receive at least one dose of influenza vaccine between **September 1 and December 31** of each year.*

Proof of this year's influenza immunization must be obtained by the health office as soon as possible after receiving the immunization. If your child has received the influenza vaccine already, simply send or fax (973-764-0066) in documentation from the medical care facility where your child received the vaccine indicating when and where it was done. If your child has not received the influenza vaccine yet, please arrange an appointment and request a copy of proof of vaccination for our records. We must receive this information by January 2, 2018 or your child **MUST BE EXCLUDED FROM SCHOOL UNTIL THE VACCINE IS RECEIVED.**

Please feel free to contact me at any time regarding any health concerns related to your child at 973 764 6343 or jgallant@vtsd.com.

Thank you,
Jen Gallant, RN, CSN
School Nurse
The Walnut Ridge School