



DR. MICHAEL J. MARTIRANO
Superintendent of Schools

St. Mary's County Public Schools

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August 10, 2012

Dear Parents/Legal Guardians:

St. Mary's County Public Schools follows the recommendations from the American Academy of Pediatrics, Centers For Disease Control (CDC), and the state and local health departments regarding when students are found to have head lice. Studies have found that exclusion from school for nits does not help prevent the spread of lice, and can have a detrimental affect on a student's education.

Students who show symptoms of head lice (extreme itching of the scalp, presence of nits on the hair shafts, etc.) will be screened by the school nurse. If the school nurse finds evidence of a lice infestation, parents/legal guardians will be notified to pick up their child from school and treat him/her with an appropriate shampoo to kill the head lice. After treatment, parents/legal guardians must transport their child back to school to be rechecked for active head lice or nits within one-fourth inch at the scalp. The child will be re-screened by the school nurse in ten days to assure there are no signs of re-infestation. No shampoo/treatment is guaranteed to kill all unhatched eggs, so additional treatment may be necessary. Removal of the nits is a very tedious procedure, but can help to ensure against a re-infestation, as it is very difficult to determine if an egg sac contains a live louse, or not.

Please continue to notify the school if you should discover your child has head lice, so we can take steps to help contain the spread. If you have any questions, please contact the school nurse.

Sincerely,

Michael J. Martirano, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools

Patricia Wince, RN, MSN, NBCSN
Supervisor of Health Services

PW:mgc