

Medication Alert!

We are pleased to announce that Meade Heights will have the services of both Health Assistant and a School Nurse for the coming school year.

Health Assistants are trained to perform specific health tasks under the supervision of the school nurse. Health assistants directly serve and support students by staffing the health room, providing first aide, and administering medication under the direction of the school nurse.

The **School Nurse** will serve Meade Heights and one other elementary school in the area. Services provided by the nurse include providing presentations and workshops, consulting with parents, staff and community personnel, and conducting nursing assessments for individual students to identify health problems or concerns, and develop a care plan to meet the needs of some individual students.

When appropriate, health assistants and school nurses assist students by providing direct services such as medication administration, immunizations, bladder catheterization, tube feeds, tracheotomy care, dietetic blood testing, asthma peak monitoring, nebulizer treatments, ostomy care, and health screening.

The policies for medication administration are essentially the same. **No medication can be given at school unless there is a current physician's order on file.** We have provided a form for your convenience. This includes common over-the-counter medications (like cough syrup, cough drops, and aspirin), as well as prescription medications. **All medications must be brought to the school office by the parent or designated adult** in a container that is labeled with the name of the child, name of the medication, dosage, and the time of administration. Over the counter medications must be in unopened containers. In some instances the parent will be required to work with the health care professional to count the medication dosage.

Medication forms are dated for a school year. Frequently, children participate in summer activities in a school setting. If the medication form is dated only through the end of the school year, parents may be required to obtain a new form. Parents may want to request that the form be dated through the middle of August to ensure that it will be useful during summer programs.

Some medications, like those used for **ADD/ADHD**, affect a child's school performance. When morning doses of medication is missed, the child often is unable to benefit from the instructional program. When this occurs, many parents want the school to give the morning dosage and adjust the time for the second dosage accordingly. We cannot do this without physician's orders describing how the school should proceed. Please discuss this problem with your physician and determine how this problem should be handled if it should occur. The school can provide additional forms if necessary. If the school is permitted to administer a morning dosage when it is missed at home, please be certain that the form reflects this information. Our school health staff will be happy to assist with this process.

Children are not permitted to bring any medications of any kind to school, keep them on their person or belongings, or take them without appropriate supervision. This includes common over-the-counter medication also. Students who violate this policy may be subject to school suspension.

While we want all children to attend regularly, those who are so ill that they need cough drops, liquid aspirin, or other common medications that have not been prescribed by the physician, may need to stay home from school. Of course, parents may come to the school and administer needed medications in the health room if a physician's statement is not available.