

Welcome to a new year of school at St. John Central School. Here is some information from the nurse:

**Prescription medications:**

* We are more than happy at the school to provide any prescription medications needed for our students.
* The school **cannot give any Prescription medications** to your child while at school without the proper forms filled out, and signed by both the child’s physician, as well as the child’s parent. You will need to have the **Dispensation of Medication Form (M-3)** from the Diocese of Steubenville filled out**. We cannot accept other form’s from the doctor’s office for this. This form is valid for the one current school year only**. A new form will have to be filed each year in order for us to administer medication to your child.
* If there are any changes to a current prescription medication, dose change, change in medication, change in how often the child takes the medication**, a new form must be filled out and submitted with the new order written by the physician and signed by the parent/physician.** We must also have a new prescription bottle that matches the physicians order at school, in order to give the medication.
* Ohio law requires that any prescription medication be sent to school in the bottle in which it was prescribed with the full name of the student, name of the medication, the current dosage and instructions for giving the medication, and the name of the physician on the label. Most physicians and pharmacists are happy to provide you with two separate bottles; one for school and one for home. Over the counter medications must also be sent to school in their original containers, with a prescription medication form filled out by their physician. The medications will be kept in a locked cabinet in the nurse’s office.
* If the school nurse isn’t present at the school, trained school staff will be responsible for giving the medications to the students.

**Non-prescription medications/forms:**

* You will be sent home with a **Non-Prescription Medication Dispensing Form** to fill out at the beginning of each school year. Please fill out and return promptly in order to give the nurse permission to administer certain over the counter medications if they have parent permission to do so. The medications will be given in accordance to the manufactures instructions for dosage, and quantity for age and weight. The following medications may be given by the nurse, or trained school staff with parent permission**: Tylenol (adult and children’s liquid), Ibuprofen (adult and children’s chewable), antacids (Tums), anti-itch cream, and cough drops.** We cannot administer these medications to your child if we do not have written permission to do so by the parent.

**Asthma:**

* Ohio law allows a child to carry an asthma inhaler in their backpack, or to be kept in the nurse’s office in a locked cabinet. They have to have the **Self-Medication for Asthma Inhalers Authorization form (M-5**) from the Diocese of Steubenville filled out. **This form needs filled out from both the physician and the parent. This form needs filled out each school year, in addition to an Asthma Action plan** needs to be completed by the physician yearly and filed. Staff are trained prior to the beginning of the school year on asthma, and the proper way to administer an asthma inhaler.

**Severe Allergies:**

* If your child has a **severe environmental or food allergy requiring the use of an Epi-Pen**, or other medications please let the nurse know. Keeping your child safe at school is a top priority**. They will need to have filled out by the physician, and parent the Dispensation of Medication form (M-3) from the Diocese of Steubenville, also an individualized Emergency Action Plan will need to be completed by the physician and filed.**
* **If your student needs an Epi-pen**, please inform your physician that the school will need to be provided with at least one Epi-pen. We are able to apply for the free Epi-pen for school if your child’s doctor feels comfortable doing so, the forms will need to be filled out by the physician and signed and the nurse can send them into Epi-pens for schools. This process has to be done yearly, and it does take time for approval. If the physician agrees and wants the child to carry, and self-administer the Epi-Pen, they need to fill out the **Authorization for Student Possession and Use of an Epinephrine Auto injector to treat Anaphylaxis from the Diocese of Steubenville (form M-6).** The Epi-pen will be kept at all times in a locked cabinet in the nurse’s office, or if we are provided with two, it will be kept in a locked cabinet in the cafeteria. All staff are trained before the start of the school year on how to properly administer an Epi-pen.

**Immunizations:**

* Every year the Ohio Department of Health releases an **Immunization Summary for School Attendance** for the new school year. Ohio law states that a student will be permitted to stay in school **the first 14 days only**, until evidence of immunization is obtained. The parent can contact the nurse for any further information needed in regards to immunizations your child may need. Students normally only need updated immunizations prior to entering in Kindergarten, and again before entering grade 7. If any student is Immunization exempt, a new form needs filled out before each school year.

**Illness/Injury:**

* Any child with **a temperature of 100.4 degrees or higher, vomiting, diarrhea, or signs and symptoms of a possible communicable disease will need to be sent home.** Please keep students home until they are **fever-free without the use of medications, such as Tylenol and Ibuprofen for 24 hours. The child also needs to be free of vomiting and diarrhea for 24 hours.** If the child has pink eye, ringworm, and or strep-throat they need to have been medicated for at least 24 hours before returning to school. We will follow the health department’s guidelines for all communicable diseases.
* Students who appear to need stitches, x-rays, or extended observation for an injury or illness will be sent home for possible medical evaluation**. If your child appears to have a life-threatening or serious illness or injury, 911 will be called.**  Every effort will be made to notify you in this situation, so please be sure to have all phone numbers and emergency contacts filled out correctly on the Emergency Medical Card. In the event that the school is unable to reach a parent/legal guardian when a student is ill or injured, the **persons designated on the student’s emergency medical card will then be contacted.** Also, if parents will be out of town for an extended stay, they need to provide the school, in writing, with the names and phone numbers of those that are responsible for the child in their absence.

**Health Screenings:**

* Vision and hearing screenings will be performed on children coming into the Kindergarten class in the spring of the previous school year when kindergarten screening takes place. All other screenings will take place in October each school year. We will complete the following grades each school year: 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, and any new students who enroll. Children may also be screened during the school year if any issues develop, or if the teacher requests a screening.
* Height and weight will also be checked with screenings, which calculates the student’s BMI.
* All screening information is logged into the student’s Infinite Campus for parents to view results.
* Scoliosis (postural screening) is now optional, per the Ohio Department of Health. This will take place in March and will be completed for girls age 10, and 12, and boys ages 13, and 14. If the nurse see’s any deficiencies in these areas they will be informed and the child will then be referred to their physician/eye doctor as needed.

Please feel free to contact me anytime with any questions or concerns for your child. I am here to promote health wellness for the students. We hope they all have a healthy school year!!

Sincerely,

Nurse Lang