

We are a community that fosters character development, independence and a lifelong love of learning.



The *Charger* Chronicle

Parent Edition

“COMMITTED TO EVERY STUDENT EVERYDAY!”



Principal's Post

Welcome to March Chargers!

March brings so much joy for many of our students and families, and it has nothing to do with Spring Break which is the week of March 11-18! This month we are focusing on our last “Come Charge Ahead!” letter of “S-Strive to do your best so you can grow;” which will prepare us for the ebbs and flows of the fourth quarter. We started off this month by sharing with our Chargers a few words of Wisdom from Plato: “The direction in which education starts a person will determine his or her future life.” This month, ask your Chargers about what direction they are heading in with their schoolwork... are they getting the job done? Are they doing their best? If Plato is right- and our Chargers do the best in school every day- they are deciding to have a happier and more successful tomorrow.... And we are here with them every step of the way!

This month will bring us our Middle School Service Project, our Elementary Field Day, Spring Break, and final preparations for the third and final testing window of the school year. We know that our students hard work, inside and outside of the classroom, is about to pay dividends and I cannot wait to watch our students blossom. Make it a great March Chargers!

Work Hard. Learn Something. Be Kind.

Drew Chiodo- Principal



MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

PREPAYMENT FOR FOOD ITEMS

Prepayments to your child's meal account with your VISA, MasterCard, or Discover credit card can be made. Log onto [PayPAMS](#). Payment can also be received by the Food Service Manager in form of check or cash.

School Lunch Menu

Visit the Patriot Oaks website under About our School, Cafeteria

March 11 to 15	Spring Break	No School
March 18	Teacher Planning	No School
March 29	Student Holiday	No School

SAC

Our School Advisory Council [SAC] is seeking parent and community members for the 2023-2024 school year. Participating in SAC provides an opportunity for parents and community members to get active and involved with Patriot Oaks' school vision and mission through school improvement planning.

If you would like more information please contact [Katherine McCullough@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Katherine.McCullough@stjohns.k12.fl.us) or [Denise Hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us](mailto:Denise.Hodges@stjohns.k12.fl.us)

KINDERGARTEN

REGISTRATION OPENS

ONLINE MARCH 1ST



In recognition of National Reading Month (March 1-31) and National School Library Month (April 1-30), the Media Center is sponsoring another **DESIGN A BOOKMARK CONTEST**. Do you have a great bookmark idea? Students in grades K-8 participate. Winning designs will be printed and distributed in the Media Center in April. For more information and to pick up a form either drop by the Media Center or visit the Patriot Oaks Media website. Entries are due March 22nd.



Deadline to order a Yearbook is March 15th!

<https://www.yearbookordercenter.com/>

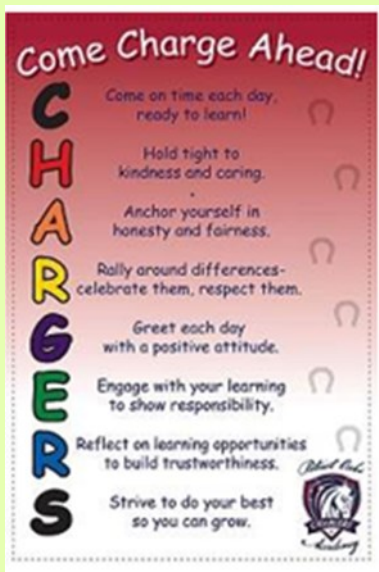
SCHOOL CODE: 14848

POA School Counseling

Greetings,

This past month we had many fun learning about problem solving, digital citizenship, how to take notes, and using our words. The school counselors focused on having a positive attitude and being a good charger through classroom lessons, resources and student chats. In the month of March we will continue our lessons, groups, student chats, and our mandated instruction. In middle school we will continue with the character chats. Thank you to everyone that continues to support our school counseling program.

Have an amazing March! Your Friendly School Counselors,
Mrs. Sierra, Ms. Saey, and Mrs. Giannotta



March Middle School

March

- Pillar of Trustworthiness
- Managing strong emotions
- Have the courage to do the right thing
- Build a good reputation

More information and Character Chat videos can be found at
<https://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/mental-health/instruction/grades7-12/>

This month we are focusing on S "Strive to do your best so you can grow." Below is a website with helpful information on practicing this month's focus.

Good Character-Character Counts



For additional family and community resources please visit our school district's
[Mental Health and Wellness portal](#)

Elementary P.E. News

- 2024 5th Grade Character Cup Event
- 3/6/24 @ Toco High School. Events starts at 4pm.

The 12 students that have been chosen to represent POA for this years event are:

Nicholas K., Shane S., Bently S., Gabe M., Bradley W. Nash C., Ainsley L., Peyton B., Kenley V., Brooklyn L. Harper A. and Alina A.

Congratulations! These 12 students represent our 6 Pillars of Character Counts. Please come out and support our 5th grade team! It is a very fun event to watch and it is free event for all spectators!



Elementary P.E. News

- Elementary P.E. Field Day

Friday, March 8th is our scheduled Elementary P.E. field day. It will be during your child's regular scheduled resource class.

Please make sure to dress your student in their fieldtrip shirt or a colored shirt that is similar to their class shirt color. We also recommend tennis shoes and comfortable shorts or pants based on the weather. There will be a water activity if the weather is warm. If your child does not like getting messy/dirty, they may need a change of clothing for after the event. Please pack a change of clothing if necessary.



Kids Heart Challenge

Coach Church and Coach Johns would like to thank all of our families who signed up for the Kids Heart Challenge Event this year.

This year we had 290 students register for this event.

We hope that each of these 290 students and their families learned more information about heart health, how to get our heart healthy and especially about Hands Only CPR!

Thank you for helping make this event successful!



YOU NO LONGER CAN SIGN IN WITHOUT YOUR ID

School Access and Vendor Sign-In

Sign-In Process:

1. Choose English/Español
2. Choose School Access or Vendor
3. Choose Sign In
4. Cover the “Small” barcode with your thumb and place Driver’s License or State ID under the scanner



5. Choose Continue
6. Choose Activity
7. Proceed to the front desk and present ID to the front office staff
8. Receive and place badge in a visible place

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SAC MEETING DATES

Meetings begin at 3:30pm in the Media Center:

- **October 24**
- **November 28**
- **December 19**
- **January 30**
- **February 27**
- **March 26**
- **April 30**
- **May 21**



PLEASE DON'T FORGET TO BRING A WATER BOTTLE

Students are able to fill a bottle at the water dispenser.

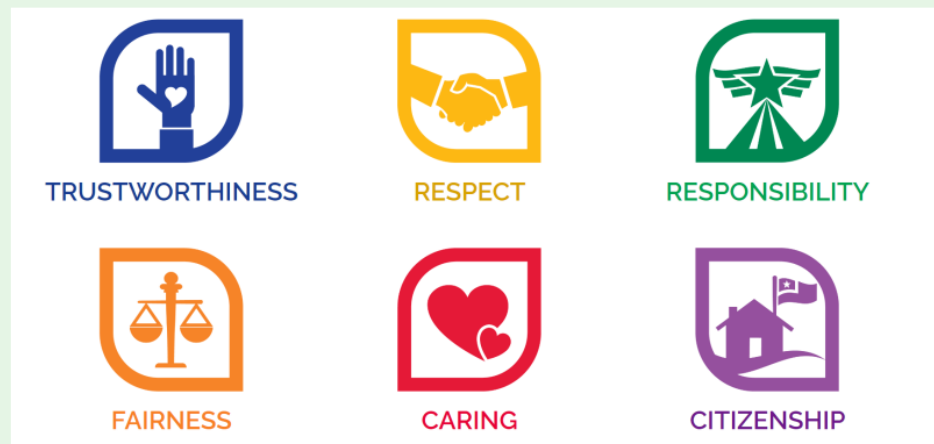
**Please be sure to send water bottles with students.
It's important to keep our students hydrated.**

Thank you

Character Rocks at POA

Help us fill the Rock Garden!

This school year we were granted fund to build a Character counts garden by The Players organization. We have been working hard to put our garden together to make it a place that students can walk through and enjoy. Part of our garden includes a rock garden. Our hope is to fill our rock garden with rocks painted and decorated by our students.



Character Rocks at POA

What:

Small Rock (2-5inches) painted with the Character pillar colors, with character quotes, or the pillar.

When:

Anytime before the end of the school year

Were:

Drop off in the cafeteria in the mornings

*Best if rocks painted with permanent, outdoor paint. We will seal the rocks.

The maximum size rock that we can accommodate is 5inches.





**Dear All Charger Families,
Please go to the Patriot Oaks web site for the absence
form that you need to fill out when your child is out
for an entire day.**

WE WILL NO LONGER EXCEPT EMAILS FOR ABSENCE

**Please send in absence form within 48 hours after
student returns.**

TARDY POLICY

Tardy Policy for all 5th grade through 8th grade students

If you have a note from an appointment it does NOT count as an unexcused tardy.

If you are just running late or do not have a note you will be given 2 free tardies each quarter. After the 2nd tardy you will have lunch detention that day and every tardy after until the end of the quarter.

Each quarter you will start again with a fresh start and get an additional 2 free tardies.

After 10 tardies for the school year, phone privileges will be lost for the rest of the quarter (if the 10th tardy is close to the end of the quarter it will go into the next quarter).

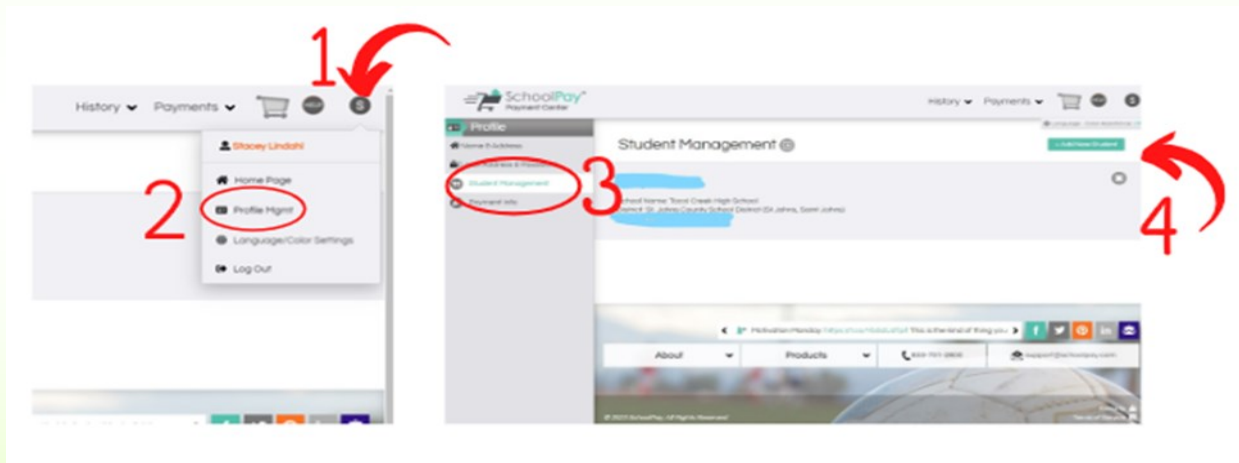
After 15 tardies for the school year, phone privileges will be lost the rest of the semester (if the 15th tardy is close to the end of the semester it will go into the next semester).

After 16 tardies consequences will be determined on a case by case basis.

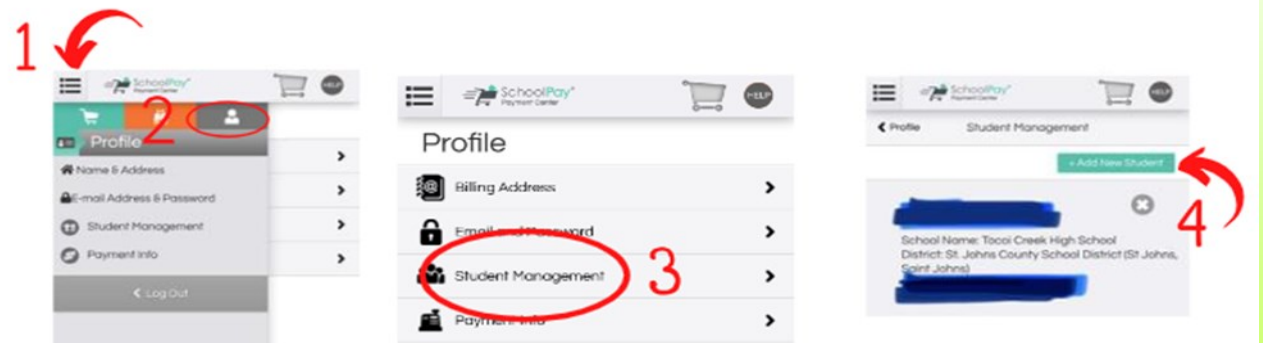
TROUBLESHOOTING



- If you get an error message, please do not try to pay again. Check your purchase history before attempting a second payment.
- Item is not appearing on your account -- Add ALL of your students to your school pay account.
 - If you have a 5th and 3rd grader but only your 5th grader is added to school pay you won't see items for your 3rd grader.
 - To add a student to your school pay account:
 - ✦ From computer - click/hover over "initial" in top right corner (1), select Profile Mgmt (2), then over to the left click Student Management (3), and then on the top right you will see "Add student" (4)



From Phone - click 3 lines in top left corner (1), select person icon (2), then choose Student Management (3), and then on the top right you will see "Add student" (4)



Dismissal information **REMINDER**

Dismissal times:

M,Tu,Th,Fri : 2:45

Wed: 1:45

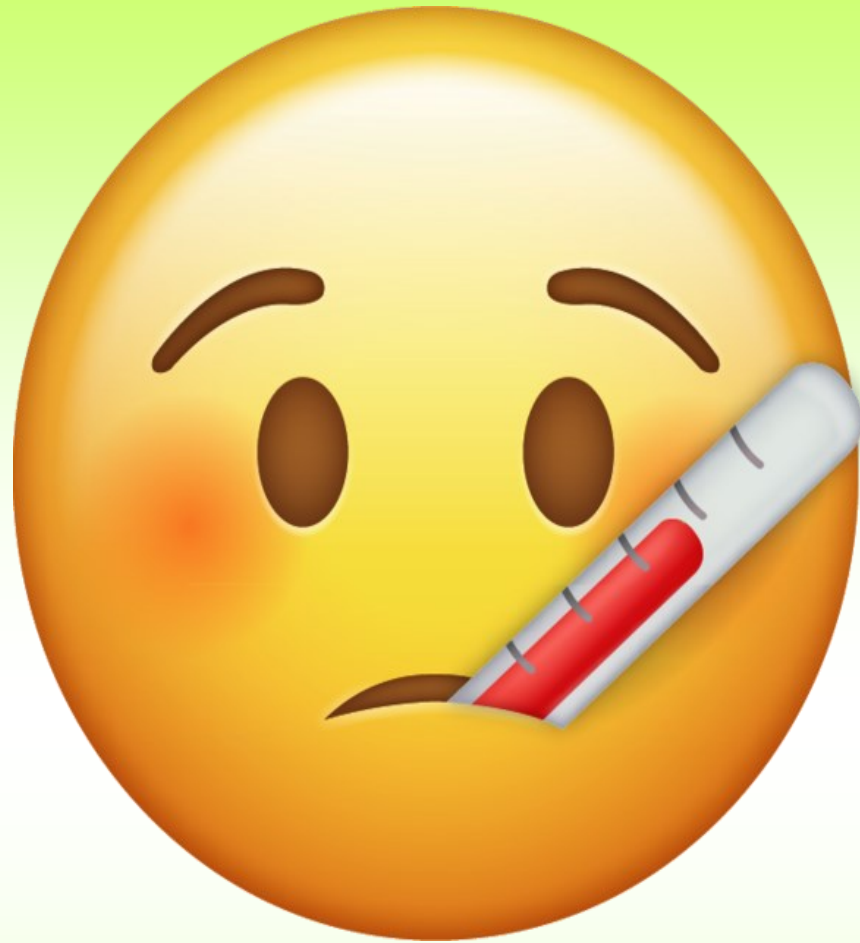


Early Check out:

M,Tu,Th,Fri : **2:15**

Wed: **1:15**

If you have a dismissal change **PLEASE** email your student's teacher and Michelle Fell
@stjohns.k12.fl.us By 2:15 (M, Tu, Th, Fri) and By 1:15 (Wed)



Remember:

Before returning to school Students must be fever free with out aid of medication for 24 hrs.



IMPORTANT

The policy for ANY student who feels ill (Elementary and Middle School):

Any student who feels sick during the school day should get a Clinic Pass from the teacher and go to the nurse's office. Nurse Jamie needs to track all illness, check for fevers, etc. in order to help stop the spread of viruses in the school and follow district health guidelines. We ask that students NOT just text parents to come check them out. If your student texts you saying he/she does not feel well, please instruct them to go to the Clinic and call you from there. Nurse Jamie / Erica will always allow students to call home if requested. We also ask if you would like to check on your sick child please call Nurse Jamie at 547-4065 instead of texting your student directly. Thank you for helping us keep all students and staff healthy.



Reminder:

Middle School student need to go see the nurse before texting parents that they are sick.

The Nurse will allow the student to call home.

When your child's name appears, you will show your phone to the participating business representative, to receive your discount.



**A list of participating businesses and their offerings are also on a different tab on the website.
If you have any questions, please call 904-547-3945 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday – Friday.**

Hello –

I'm excited to announce that the SJCSO Honor Card Program has gone digital! Access to business discounts in the St. Johns County area will be available to a student or parent utilizing their phone and the student ID number. This **considerably** reduces our paper and ink usage, and is an easy way to show participation in the program.

Below are steps for usage of the digital honor cards. Please copy these steps and send out in your parent newsletters and other communication mechanisms as you see fit. We will also be sending an email with this information directly to the families whose student/s are in the program via SchoolMessenger.

There will be a few cards sent to each school in the next week for families that do not have smart phone access.

Secretaries - please read through this information, and respond to this email letting me know that 1) you have read and understand the “basics” of the new program; and 2) you will be sharing this information in your school’s family/guardian communication.

Thank you in advance for your help getting the information out to families, and working with us through any hurdles. Happy Honor Card Program!! Cheryl

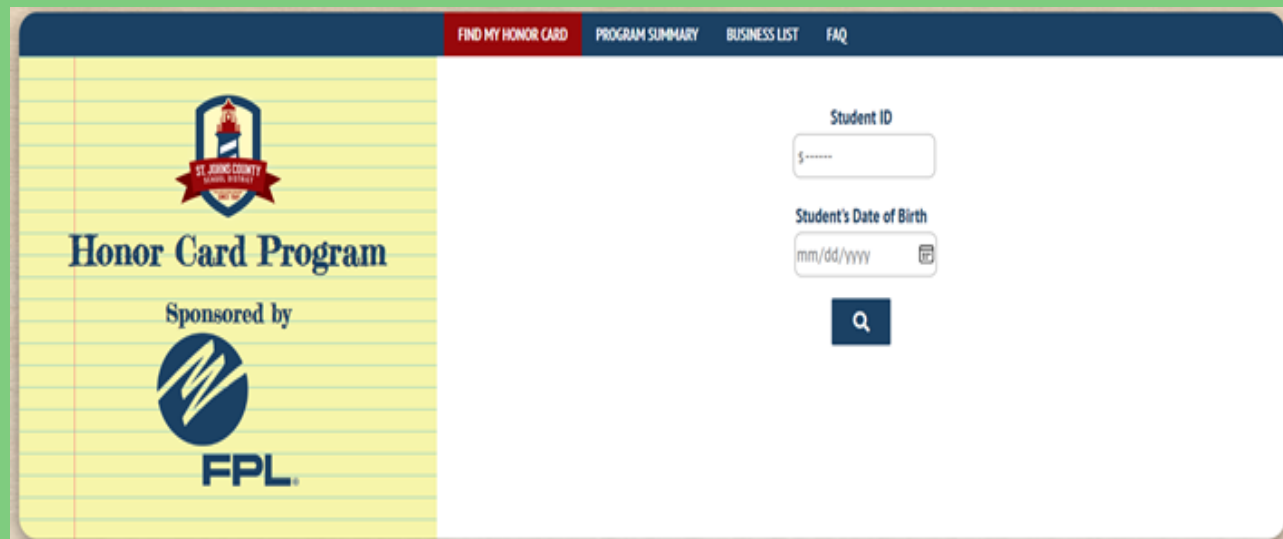


Cheryl Freeman

Coordinator, SJCSO Volunteer Services

The St. Johns County School District Honor Card program has gone digital! If your child is on the A/B honor roll, you have the opportunity to receive discounts at some very fun and exciting places in St. Johns County. Instead of paper honor cards, you will now show business participants your phone and receive these discounts. Below are the steps to using the new system.

On your smart phone go to <https://myhonorcard.com>. The following screen will appear. Place your child's student ID number and date of birth in the boxes.



The screenshot shows a web interface for the St. Johns County Honor Card Program. The left side features a yellow notepad background with the St. Johns County School District logo (a lighthouse inside a shield with 'ST. JOHNS COUNTY' and 'SCHOOL DISTRICT' text) and the text 'Honor Card Program' and 'Sponsored by FPL' with the FPL logo. The right side has a white background with a dark blue navigation bar at the top containing links: 'FIND MY HONOR CARD' (highlighted in red), 'PROGRAM SUMMARY', 'BUSINESS LIST', and 'FAQ'. Below the navigation bar, there are two input fields: 'Student ID' with a placeholder '5-*****' and 'Student's Date of Birth' with a placeholder 'mm/dd/yyyy' and a calendar icon. A dark blue search button with a white magnifying glass icon is positioned below the date field.

Absentee Form

When your student has been absent and has returned please fill out the ABSENTEE FORM and sent it to the FRONT OFFICE.

IT MUST BE RECEIVED WITHIN 48 HRS. OF WHEN THE STUDENT RETURNS TO SCHOOL TO BE EXCUSED.

AFTER 15 DAYS A DOCTOR'S NOTE MUST BE SUBMITTED FOR THE STUDENT TO BE EXCUSED .

The absentee form can be found on our website, under K-8 Forms or by going to the link below.

<http://www-poa.stjohns.k12.fl.us/k-8-forms/>

School Messenger

The St Johns County School District started using a mass communication system in December 2016 called School Messenger. This system allows schools and District staff to quickly and efficiently communicate both general and emergency messages to parents/guardians and staff using email, text and voice mail. The system is capable of sending thousands of messages in minutes.

Parents and staff who wish to receive text messages from this system must (1) Opt-in from their mobile device and (2) have their mobile number on file with their child's school (for parents/guardians) or on file with Employee Online (for staff/employees).

<http://www.stjohns.k12.fl.us/schoolmessenger/>

Attendance Policy for St. Johns County Schools

Any student who has been absent from school shall provide a note from a parent or guardian within forty-eight (48) hours of returning to school stating the cause of the absence. Failure to provide a note will result in an automatic unexcused absence. However, the fact that the student provides a note does not require the school administration to excuse the absence.

After fifteen (15) days of absence, whether excused or unexcused, a student must present verification from a licensed doctor for all subsequent absences due to illness.

MEDICATION POLICY

Florida Statute 1006.062 authorizes school personnel to assist students in the administration of prescription medications. Parents/Guardians are encouraged to administer medications at home prior to or after school hours. The schools **do not** keep stock medicine in the clinic.

If your child needs medication during school hours, please note the following:

☐ All medications (prescription and over-the-counter) must have a medication form signed by both the parent/guardian and the physician ordering the medication.

☐ All medications must be received in the original container with current Rx label including student's name, dosage, frequency of administration, physician's name, and expiration date of medication. Over-the-counter medications must be in the original, un-opened container. **No medication will be given if presented at school in a plastic bag.**

☐ Medications must be brought to school by parent/guardian. Please do not send any medications with your child in their backpack. Medications **may not** be brought to school by the student.

☐ Medication brought to school by a student will be kept in the clinic until a parent/guardian comes to the school with the required paper work. Without the required authorization, the student will not be given the medication during school hours.

☐ Medications should not be transported between home and school on a daily basis. Separate containers should be kept at home and at school.

☐ Expired medications will be disposed of upon expiration date in accordance with local requirements.

The St. Johns County School clinics provide a vital service for our students. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

ILLNESS GUIDELINES
Health Services

Deciding when to keep your child home from school can be difficult. When a child is sick and needs to stay at home, parents should contact the school and describe the illness and symptoms. If a medical provider makes a specific diagnosis (such as strep throat, conjunctivitis, chicken pox, etc.), let school staff know.

There are several reasons to keep (exclude) sick children from school: The child does not feel well enough to participate comfortably in usual activities, such as with extreme signs of tiredness or fatigue, unexplained irritability or persistent crying.

The child requires more care than the school staff is able to provide without affecting the health and safety of the other children.

The illness is on the list of symptoms or illness for which exclusion is recommended.

The child is not vaccinated due to medical or religious reasons and there is an outbreak in the school.

The following list gives guidelines and recommendations for exclusion from school due to illness. Children with minor illness need not be excluded unless one or more of the following exists.

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY	ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS	EXCLUSION IS NECESSARY
Chicken Pox Yes – Until blisters have dried and crusted (usually 6 days).		Fifth Disease No – child is no longer contagious once rash illness appears.	
Conjunctivitis (pink eye) (pink or red eyes with thick mucous or pus draining from the eye) Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment begins. If your health provider decides not to treat your child, a note is needed.		Head Lice Yes – May return after treatment and removal of all live lice and nits from hair.	
Coughing (severe, uncontrolled coughing or wheezing, rapid or difficulty in breathing) Yes – Medical attention may be necessary. NOTE: Children with asthma may be cared for in school with a written health care plan and authorization for medication/treatment.		Hepatitis A Yes - Until 1 week after onset of illness or jaundice and when able to participate in school activities.	
Coxsackie Virus (Hand, foot and mouth disease) No – May attend if able to participate in school activities, unless the child has mouth sores and is drooling.		Herpes Yes – if area is oozing and cannot be covered, e.g., mouth sores. Otherwise, may return to school.	
Diarrhea (frequent, loose or watery stools not caused by diet or medication) Yes – if child looks or acts ill; diarrhea with vomiting; diarrhea that is not contained in the toilet.		Impetigo/Staph/MRSA Yes – May return 24 hours after treatment starts. Wound must be covered with dressing taped on all 4 sides.	
Fever with behavior changes or illness <u>Fever</u> is an elevation of body temperature above normal. Yes – when fever is elevated above 100° and is accompanied by behavior changes or other symptoms of illness, such as fatigue, rash, sore throat, upper respiratory symptoms, vomiting, diarrhea, etc. Must remain at home for at least 24 hours or until all symptoms subside medication free.		Body Rash <u>with</u> fever Yes – Seek medical advice. Any rash that spreads quickly, has open, weeping wounds and/or is not healing should be evaluated. May return to school when medical provider determines that illness is not communicable.	
		Mild Cold Symptoms (stuffy nose with clear drainage, sneezing, mild cough) No – May attend if well enough to participate in school activities.	

ILLNESS OR SYMPTOMS

Upper Respiratory Complications

- large amount of thick nasal discharge
- extreme sleepiness
- ear pain
- fever (above 100° orally)

Yes – Seek medical advice. May return when symptoms are improved.

Ringworm

Yes – May return after treatment begins. Area should be covered while in school for the first 48 hours of treatment.

Roseola

No – Unless child cannot participate in usual activities and has fever.

Scabies

Yes – May return after treatment is started with note from medical provider.

Strep Throat

Yes – May return after 24 hours of antibiotic treatment and no fever for 24 hours.

Exclusion is Necessary

Vaccine Preventable Diseases

(mumps, measles, whooping cough)

Yes – Until judged not infectious by a medical provider. Report all cases to Health Services Coordinator.

Vomiting

(2 or more episodes in the past 24 hrs.)

Yes – until vomiting resolves or health care provider determines that cause is not communicable.

Note: Observe for other signs of illness and for dehydration.