



THE FALCON TIMES

Falcon Cove Middle School

4251 Bonaventure Boulevard
Weston, FL 33332

[Http://www.falconcove.net](http://www.falconcove.net)



FALL

STRIVING FOR EXCELLENCE

NOVEMBER 2015

Message from the Principal

Welcome to 2015!

This has been an exciting year at Falcon Cove so far. Our students and staff are working diligently to continue to meet our high standards. We appreciate all of the support and encouragement from our parents and our community. Our curriculum program continues to be strong as we meet the needs of our diverse student population.



Dr. Mark J. Kaplan
Principal

Our Girls Soccer Team won the County Championship, our PTA has grown to over 800 members, and our facility has again been assessed as one of the cleanest facilities in the district.

We are always looking to improve our programs and our operations. If you have any feedback or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us. We wish you all a safe and healthy 2015/2016!

Important Dates to Remember

November 19th Interim Reports
November 25—27th Thanksgiving
December 21—January 1st Winter Break
January 4th, 2016 Return to School
January 7th Early Release
January 8th Employee Planning
January 18th Holiday
January 28th Report Cards Issued
February 11th Interim Reports
February 15th Holiday
February 25th Early Release

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Our Teachers Excel



We are very lucky at Falcon Cove to have so many teachers who have excelled in their profession and earned their

National Board Certification certificate.

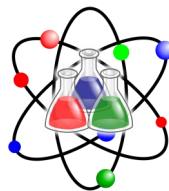
The National Board Certification is a symbol of professional teaching excellence. It measures a teacher's practice against high and rigorous standards through an extensive series of performance-based assessments, which includes teaching portfolios, student work samples, videotapes or DVDs and thorough analyses of the candidate's teaching and the students' learning. The process involves written exercises that probe the depth of a candidate's subject-matter knowledge, as well as his or her understanding of how to teach those subjects.

Congratulations to all our Nationally Board Certified Teachers!

**Donna Orband
Shari Stupp**



**Jennifer Dailey
Juliet Hodge
Monify Nealy
Laurie Reichow
Gina Powers
Phyllis Zuri**

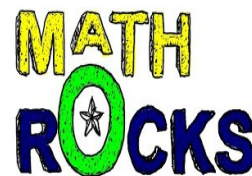


**Mathew Obenreder
Kate Stone
Louis Wittrock**

**ESE
Lisa Bandman
Christine Harvey**



**Marcia Alexander,
Library Media**



**Amy Kaye
Harvey Lipshutz
Ian Powers**



Introducing our new 7th Grade Assistant Principal



Please join us in welcoming our new 7th grade assistant principal, Mrs. Cheryl Rubin. She attended South Plantation High School and earned both her Bachelor and Masters degree from Florida Atlantic University. Mrs. Rubin began her teaching career 22 years ago at Sunrise Middle school where she taught 6th through 8th grade Montessori. For the past 11 years, she served as assistant principal at Sunrise Middle School and Plantation Middle School.

Our Fabulous Staff

Teacher of the Year



Gina Powers & Dr. Kaplan

Mrs. Gina Powers has been a dedicated educator for 19 years and worked at Falcon Cove for 14 years. She teaches Language Arts to our gifted students. She has created curriculum and developed instructional strategies for our students as well as within the district. She co-authored "PowerEd Writing" with a former teacher, a curriculum, that is used at various schools in Broward County. She has developed strategies to improve the overall literacy of her students and has helped implement a "paperless classroom" by utilizing technology, not only in her classroom, but assisting other faculty members by creating workshops and training sessions to help her colleagues infuse technology into their classrooms.

Mrs. Powers provides a caring environment in her classroom. She exudes kindness and empathy and strives to ensure that her students feel that they are being heard, understood, and part of their own learning process. She is a true gem and a gift to all of her students.

Chad Klitzman, a former student of hers, who now is in college, stated, "You will not find an educator on this planet- let alone in this county—more deserving of the "Teacher of the Year " crown—she changed my life. The best teachers are the ones that have an indelible impact on the lives of their students."

We congratulate a truly wonderful educator and person. Well done, Mrs. Powers.

Non-instructional Employee of the Year

I feel very honored to have been voted by the faculty and staff at Falcon Cove Middle this year as non instructional employee of the year. I have worked for Broward County Schools for 24 years. I have worked at the Cove since the 1st year it opened. I work in the front office and I am the first face everyone sees.

I love working with the kids, and assisting the parents and visitors that come into my office. Through the years I have been so fortunate to work with such a wonderful faculty and staff and I can honestly say that the majority of them are my dear friends. I love coming to work everyday. My office is always busy and that makes my days so interesting and fun.



Faith Fischer & Dr. Kaplan

Congratulations to Faith—you deserve it.

New Faculty Joins the Falcon Cove Family



Ian Powers
Board Certified Social Studies Teacher
8th grade

In one way or another, my family has been part of Falcon Cove since 2000, so when Dr. Kaplan offered me the opportunity to join the Falcon Cove family, I accepted without hesitation! I embraced the chance to be-

come a part of the best middle school in Broward County with its excellent team of faculty, staff, students, and parents. Although my students don't realize it, they remind me daily that I have the best job in the world. I love teaching American History and I love coming to work every day because of them. Although I've only been here for eight weeks, everyone has made me feel "at home."



Kaitlyn Gaudio
6th grade Social Studies

I have wanted to be a teacher at Falcon Cove since my very first day as a substitute teacher almost three years ago. It is the best middle school in Broward County and I went to school here

from 2001-2004. All of the staff here are fantastic and I built a great rapport with the kids, especially last year. I was so excited when I got the phone call offering me a teaching position for 6th grade social studies. I am truly grateful to be here. This is the ideal school and I could not imagine teaching anywhere else.



Ashley Olson
French 1 & 2

Having previous taught math I had two math positions offered to me but didn't feel like the school and position were right for me. The day before I had to give these schools a response, the French position at Falcon Cove became available. I got such a good feeling about this

school after speaking to Dr. Kaplan that I knew that this was the place for me. The students and teachers are so wonderful and I have felt right at home from the beginning.

I came to Falcon Cove because it has a reputation for being the best middle school in Broward County. Falcon Cove's students are known for being bright, interested, and ready to learn. I wanted to work with children



Kathrine Chapman
6th grade Language Arts

who were ready to engage with new knowledge, explore new ideas, and who valued the learning experience.



Virginia Chavero
Spanish 1 Teacher

I live very close to the school so it's very convenient to come to work here. In fact, for seven years I worked at Cypress Bay and I used to walk to school.

I have known two of the

Spanish Teachers for at least ten years and we always talked about how nice it would be if we could work together in the same school.

I am originally from Venezuela and had the opportunity to travel throughout South America in the past to places such as Argentina, Colombia, Puerto Rico, Chile, Brazil, Mexico, Dominican Republic, Spain, etc., and many of my students in the Spanish Speakers class come from this countries and its excellent to discuss and learn about traditions, places and history and a meaningful way.



Ryan Harch
Robotics Teacher

When I first got the call for the robotics position at Falcon Cove Middle School, I was impressed and intrigued that a middle school had a robotics program. Later, I learned why. Falcon Cove has been one of the top performing schools in Broward County for a number of years. That has allowed them to cultivate a number of excellent extracurricular activities which in turn inspires their already talented student body to be creative, curious, and passionate. On top of that, I have never found a faculty that is as compassionate, caring, and gives each student so much attention. I have never felt so welcome to be a part of something nor been offered so much help and good will as when I joined Falcon Cove. I am honored to be a part of this school and be a part of these students' lives.

Monster Mash

Mrs. Malone's & Ms. Dailey's class really got into the "Halloween Monster Spirit". After reading "Man Made Monsters", students are placed in groups and given a particular body part to create; they do not know how the monster will look until each group has completed their body part and then the body parts are put together to create "A Man Made Monster".



Ms. Malone's class



From Ms. Dailey's class.

FALCON COVE CLUBS

Creative Writing Club

Every Thursday morning in room 135, at 8:45am, a handful of students gather in a room. These students write. Because it's writing club... so we do that, right? Sure, but that's not nearly *all* we do. We *create*. Each meeting is some different topic to open, some different story to write poetry about. Our poetry isn't *just* poetry. It's deciding, 'Hey, maybe I'll share my poem today. I've got nothing to lose!'. It's poetry out loud, a decision to be bold and WRITE. To be bold and THINK. To be bold, and to be a part of this thing we like to call... the Falcon Cove Writing Club.



Written by Tess Segal

Explorer Cadet Program

Officer Brand, Falcon Cove's School Resource Officer, accepted the opportunity to start an Explorer Cadet program for middle school age students at Falcon Cove. The cadets learn police procedures, Florida State statutes, teamwork, self confidence, and the importance of setting an example and mentoring others when possible. During the cadet meetings, several high school age Explorers attend the meeting in order to assist and mentor the cadets. By doing this, the cadets are preparing to be high school



aged explorers should they choose to do so. The high school explorers earn volunteer hours towards their high school graduation. The cadets and several high school explorers attend a CPR certification class during the school year and became CPR certified. During the summer we run an Explorer Cadet summer program that cadets and Deputies from both the Weston and Tamarac Police Departments participate in.

This school year we currently have thirteen middle school aged cadets in the Explorer Cadet program.

Chess Club

Meets every Thursday morning in room 114 at 8:45 am. Once a month the members compete in the "Mayor's Chess Challenge". It is an open chess game in which students play the Mayors from various cities. At the last session students played with the Mayors from Plantation, Cooper City and



Crime Watch

The Crime Watch Club is a club designed for student leaders who want to take a stand against negative behaviors in their school. The crime watchers stand post at various stations in and around the school. They report, anonymously, any incidents which occur. They meet once a month or as necessary to discuss safety reports and to be briefed! Please listen to the

Science Bowl

The national Science Bowl (NSB) middle school competition began in 2002 as a highly competitive science education and academic event among teams of middle school students who compete in a



Mr. Wittrock and Science Bowl Members

fast-paced verbal forum to solve technical problems and answer questions in all branches of science and math. Each team is composed of four students, one alternate student, and a coach. Regional and national events encourage student involvement in math and science activities of importance to the Department of Energy and the Nation.

There will be a regional competition in Cocoa Beach on March 4th, 2016. If Falcon Cove wins they will then go to Washington DC. Falcon Cove have won twice in previous years.

Math Club

The math club is a competition club. We compete in various contests within the school, county, state, and nationally. The students practice problem solving skills, team work, and speed. We have quite a few competitions coming up. This year there are 108 students in the math club.



Competitions have already begun. The Math Olympiad begins on Nov. 18th

Mu Alpha Theta begins in December

Then the big competitions will begin in January.

Cheerleading

Being part of the cheer team at Falcon Cove Middle School is where all the fun and excitement begins. Girls experience tryouts, games, Flight of The Falcons, and many other exciting events to support school spirit. Not only is being part of the FCMS cheer team



exciting, but practices are demanding, the girls cheer at games with stands full of screaming FCMS students and parents.

In order to become part of FCMS cheer team, girls go through two weeks of cheerleading clinic after school where they learn a cheer, and dance.

After girls make the FCMS cheer team, practice is held every day- after school until 6pm. Girls work hard to perfect a halftime routine to perform at basketball and flag football games in front of roaring fans.



Falcon Cove Media Center News

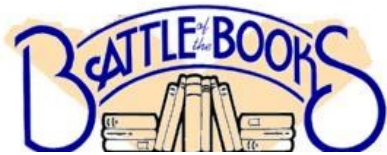
Book Club

The Falcon Cove Book Club has approximately 75 club members. We grow bigger each year which means that there is ALOT of reading going on at Falcon Cove and at home! This year we will be reading fifteen Sunshine State novels and will participate in related activities, both academic and community service oriented.

Counting by 7's by Holly Sloan has inspired our club to walk in the " Making Great Strides Cancer Walk" on Oct. 31(see picture) and to take a field trip to the Bonnet House in Fort Lauderdale for a bird watching adventure in January.



Mrs. Alexander and Book Club members at the "Walk" in Fort Lauderdale



The author of "The Eighth Day", Dianne K. Salerni will be videoconferencing with us to discuss her first novel

in the futuristic trilogy. Sawgrass Springs Middle School will be joining us since we are "battling" each other in the Broward County Middle School Battle of the Books this May.

Two new activities this year include Breakfast and Books (book discussions before school which will start soon) and quiet reading time after lunch in the Falcons Reading Nest (Media Center). Comfy new chair cushions/chairs have been ordered and this will give our readers a chance to read and relax in a peaceful spot during their busy school day !

If you need help...who ya' gonna call? Not ghostbusters....Media aides ! They are here all day, every day to assist you in finding a good book or to help you with your research / homework assignments.

ONE STOP RESEARCH TIP: If you have a project you can go to **Destiny Quest One Search**.

Here's how...falconcove.net, virtual media center, destiny quest, log in (upper rt hand corner), type in topic and click one search tab Now you'll have articles /websites from BEEP w/o even going there! Any problems see or email Ms. Alexander.

Audiovisual Policy #6100

All full-length curricular videos that teachers use in the classroom are listed and available for parents to view. These can be accessed in your Child's grade level center.



Media Aides: Ciara Lopez and Colin Crawford

HAPPENINGS AROUND THE COVE

See what makes Falcon Cove one of the top schools in the county. Here is look at what is going on in some of our classes.

Caveman Art in Social Studies

Mrs. Tiernan's sixth graders have done it again. Using all natural materials, her students transferred, with style, their favorite print-out of an actual Paleolithic Cave Painting. They used materials such as paprika,



cinnamon, charcoal, thawed berry juice, dry mustard and turmeric. A great job once again. Cavemen sure knew their art!

Best Buddies Program



Best Buddies is a friendship club which fosters friendships between students with and without

intellectual disabilities. The students participate in group social activities after school. Falcon Cove is the second middle school in Broward County to have a Best Buddies chapter. Students sell pizza after school to provide funds for purchases for activities in

Bon Appetit!

The French class are performing "French cafe skits". They had to create a French menu and write and act out a skit as if they were wait-



ers and customers at a French restaurant. Some students went above and beyond the require-

ments and even created food that was served at their cafe as you can see from the photograph. They had a lot of fun learning about French food.

Burstin' with Fun



Mrs. Jimenez's 6th grade classes made pinatas to celebrate Hispanic culture. They enjoyed making them and presenting them to the class. They are being exhibited in the Media Center.

Six Word Memoirs

In Mrs. Powers's eighth grade Language Arts class, her students had to write a six-word memoir. This is a short story using only six words describing a hobby, an event in your life or something that describes you as a person. Some wrote deep emotions. Some examples are,



"stressed and confused but still alive,"

"Peace will win, fear will lose,"

"take a breath let it go"

Some were funny and showcased happiness and silliness. For example,



"I swear I didn't do it"

"Lazy yet enjoys sports, I'm bored"

"Weird but ... nevermind, extremely weird"

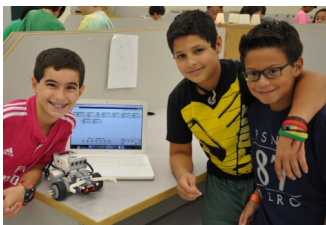
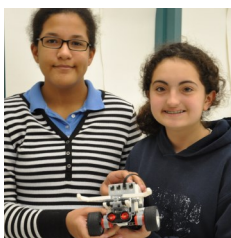
Overall, this project allows students to express themselves in only words.

Written By: Dianela Gomez Dugan, Sara Joseph, Paola Diaz and Rusitha Penikalapati.

Robotics are the bomb ...

In Mr. Harch's Robotics class, students engineer mechanical robots that are programmed to pick up and move paper cups.

The course is divided in two parts. The first part of every day is a typical classroom. There the students will learn about the theory of robotics. They learn material such as how to interpret sensor data, how to program, and engineering concepts. Then the students break into groups to do projects. There they do a series of challenges that are designed to make them think critically and to think outside the box.



Students Flagged with Spanish Pride

In Mr. Espana's Spanish 1 classes, students made flags from each Spanish speaking country around the world. They had to research the meaning of the flags' color and coat of arms. They worked very hard and had fun presenting their findings.



Our Fabulous Art Department

We have many murals around our school depicting all aspects of education. An amazing work of art by artists Valentina Villarroel and Maria Franco Luque.

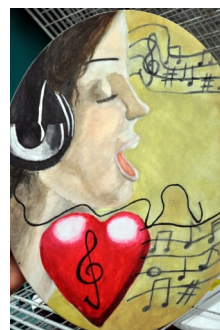


They began this mural in 8th grade, as it was not completed before they left, so they return to the school and volunteer their time to finish it.

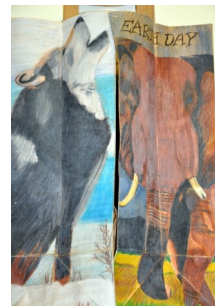
Take a look the next time you visit Falcon Cove, fine arts are in every hallway, gym, cafeteria and under stairwells.



The drawing to the left was designed to help promote the arts.



These paper bags were created into works of art in celebration of Earth Day. They are on display in the main hallway on the first floor.

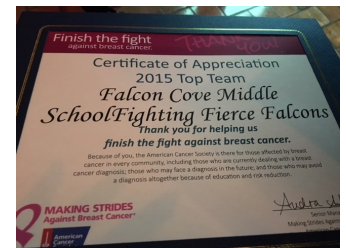


Falcon Cove Students out in Force ...

One out of every eight women is affected by Breast Cancer. Falcon Cove decided to join the "Fight for the Cure" since it had impacted some staff members/teachers at the school. The staff, teachers, students (Soccer Team and Book Club), parents and community raised funds for Making Strides for Breast Cancer of Broward County on behalf of the American Cancer Society. The school collected almost \$5,000 becoming one of the top 20 Teams ranking #19 of 597 teams. Each Friday in the month of October our students/staff wore their pink shirts purchased with proceeds going to the charity. It was so nice to see a sea of pink each week walking around the school. Falcon Cove families and staff help raise awareness for a good cause in a fun way.



Coach Hoopes and soccer girls



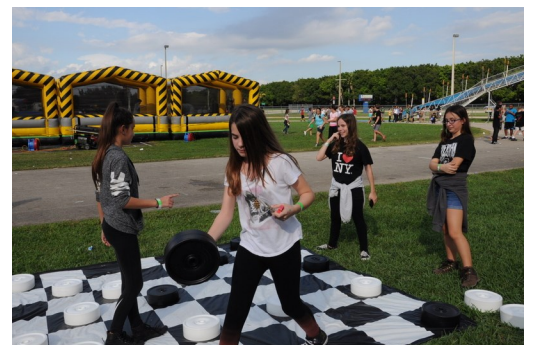
Hot Doggone it!

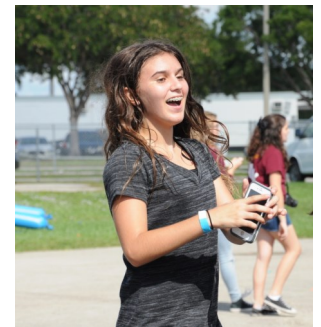
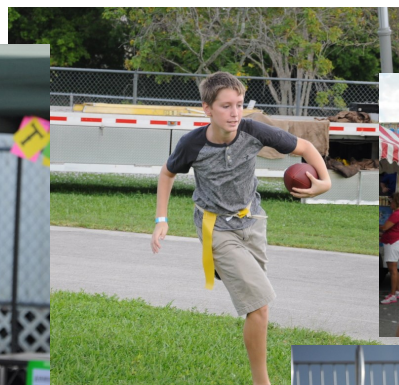
Students in Ms. Kuker's SVE class just love making hotdogs. But the best part of course, is eating them.

Flight of the Falcons

"Flight of the Falcons" is the PTA's biggest fundraiser of the year. It is always very successful. Last year the PTA provided the school with a new gymnasium floor, the year before that it was the pavers outside the portable area as well as the outdoor tables to sit and enjoy the outside weather. The PTA have made considerable contributions towards technology and other school improvements. The PTA also sponsor student dances, teacher grants and other school related events.

Falcon Cove is very lucky to have such a wonderful PTA body of volunteers and it is through them that our students had such a fun time at the Flight of the Falcons. They slid down slides, they laughed, played football, basketball, and checkers. They danced, threw water balloons and water on each other. In other words they had a really great time. Over three hundred photographs were taken and you can find them on the PTA website on Facebook.





Even the staff get involved and enjoy the day.

General Info

PTA Information

Website: falconcovepta.com

Facebook Page: Falcon Cove PTA

The PTA has had a very busy and successful beginning of the school year. At this time, we have over 700 members and about 93 faculty and staff memberships. We had a wonderful Mardi Gras themed sixth grade dance with over 400 sixth graders. Box Tops collections are under way and Bird House is open on Wednesdays. Next up is our biggest fundraiser for the year, *Flight of the Falcons*, which is on Friday, November 13th.

Coming up in December is the Holiday Shop and helping with the Book Fair. We will always need volunteers to help with these activities. Please email the VP of Volunteers at falconcovevolunteers@gmail.com if you are able to help out!

Check out and purchase our new logo items which you can find on our website. You can print out an order form or purchase online with a credit card.

It is never too late join the PTA! Together we can make a difference and we greatly appreciate your support.

Another great way to support the PTA and Falcon Cove Middle School is to become a sponsor. We really appreciate our sponsors and relationships within our community. We welcome all businesses and hope to see your banner on our fence!

Please check the PTA website at

falconcovepta.com

regularly for updates. Here you can contact the PTA, find all of the important information, become a member and so much more.

For those of you with Facebook, please like the Falcon Cove PTA page and stay connected.

Have you moved or changed your phone number???

Please stop by the front office and fill out an address change form. Remember to bring your electric bill and one additional proof such as phone bill, lease, drivers license, mortgage commitment, or USPS confirmation of address change. If you have changed your phone number, please contact the grade level center.

Peer Tutoring

The Peer Counseling Program is in full swing. The peer counselors are wonderful tutors (tutoring in all subject areas) and are trained to be great listeners. They have valuable skills to help your child succeed.

If your child is having any academic concerns or just would like to speak to someone, please contact Ms. Dempsey by email or contact your grade level center and arrangements can be made.

Breakfast/Lunch

Parents, if you would like to prepay for lunch, please have your child bring either cash or a check to the cafeteria before school and give it to one of the cashiers or pay for it on-line.

Breakfast is FREE and is served from 9:05—9:30am.

Student Messages

Academic classes cannot be interrupted for telephone messages from home. Only emergencies clearly stated from the parent/legal guardian, will be considered by the assistant principal.

Reminders of after school appointments or transportation are not considered emergencies as they should be discussed prior to school time.

Have a "rainy day plan" organized with your child, so that should it rain at the end of the day your child knows ahead of time what to do.

We thank you for your assistance. We try very hard to make academic instruction our main focus.

Use of Cell Phones

We would very much appreciate if you are calling in an absence into the system that you refrain from calling on your cell phone. A cell phone often breaks up in certain areas and your message will be distorted.



Immunization Requirements

Prior to entering the 7th grade, all students must provide a Florida Certificate of Immunization (DH 680) *stating that their immunizations are complete for 7th grade entry*. Please note that in addition to compliance with all other required immunizations, children entering the 7th grade in Florida schools must have received one dose of the tetanus-diphtheria-pertussis (Tdap) vaccine.

Your child may need additional immunizations and/or you may just need to turn in the updated DH 680 form.

You may request the form from your child's physician's office or visit a public health center.

More information regarding public health centers can be found at: <http://browardchd.org/>

Only original 680 DH forms are accepted. Please submit Immunization Forms to our Administrative Office, attention Registrar

Attendance Procedures

Attendance line 754-323-3202

Parents, please be aware that, according to Broward County School Board Policy, when a child is absent it must be reported to the school within 48 hours. School staff members have the right to ask for a written medical excuse in certain circumstances. We have attendance lines that are easily accessed for all three grade levels. The majority of our teachers have websites that have work posted on a daily basis.

For each day of absence, a student will have two days for each subject, per day of absence, in which to make it up. If you are unable to call, please send a note with your child and have them bring it to the **Grade Level Center**.

AUTOMATED SYSTEM: Our system is set up that when your child is not in class you will receive an automated response. Please be aware that even though you have called in the absence, we have 48 hours to excuse it.

Out-of-Field Waivers

All of our professional teachers are continuously upgrading their teaching skills and developing increased levels of content expertise.

We are particularly recognizing the following teachers here at Falcon Cove Middle School who are expanding their expertise beyond their current certification by pursuing college coursework and/or training sessions to become certified in another subject(s). While doing this they are teaching those subjects to students.

They were School Board approved out-of-field.

Richard Johnson, Language Arts
Donna Orband, Gifted
Christina Stewart, Gifted
Pedro Suarez, Gifted
Tashauna Thompson, Gifted

Parent Information on Health Issues...

Health conditions

Please inform the school when...

Your child is out sick with a communicable illness, i.e. flu and gastric symptoms, rash, meningitis, pink eye.

If your student has any health conditions such as:

- ♦ Diabetes
- ♦ Allergic reactions
- ♦ Any other condition

To care for your student safely at school we need the following:

- ♦ Updates and changes in health condition
- ♦ Medications and treatments needed—must be on an *Authorization for Medication/Treatment* form
- ♦ Emergency contacts (names and phone number)

Health Screenings

Routine screening, such as vision, scoliosis, hearing, BMI are done according to state laws for certain grades. Please follow up if you get a letter indicating your child did not pass a screening. If you do not wish for your child to participate in any of these screenings you need to inform the school in writing.

Medication Administration at School

If your child needs to take medication at school or on a field trip, we need an authorization for Medication/Treatment form filed out by your physician and signed by the physician and parent/guardian. This includes over the counter medications. Parent must transport and deliver ALL medications to school staff in the original container and labeled.

If your child is diabetic a Diabetic Medication/Treatment Authorization form needs to be completed by your healthcare provider. There is also a separate Insulin Pump Medication/Treatment Authorization form that needs to be completed by your healthcare provider for students requiring insulin via a pump.

Hospital/Homebound Program

If your child becomes ill or is injured during the school year and your physician feels that he/she will expect to miss 15 or more consecutive school days, your child may be eligible for hospital or homebound instruction through the Hospital/Homebound Program.

Please contact your guidance counselor for a Hospital Homebound packet.

