



## *A Letter from the School Health Office*

Dear Parents,

September 2019

Vision and hearing screenings will be administered during the school year for grades K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> (vision only), 9<sup>th</sup>, and 11<sup>th</sup>, and to all new students as required by state law. Students who did not pass a screening in the past and no follow up was received may also be rescreened at this time. Scoliosis screenings are done at the request of a parent in 7<sup>th</sup> grade only-notify clinic staff if you want this screening done. Dental screenings are done in 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade per the Licking County Health Dept. dental team with parent permission.

It is important to have vision screenings done, as young children do not know the way they see the world is not the way they should be seeing it! Without early detection and treatment, children's vision problems can lead to permanent vision loss and learning difficulties.

Hearing is important for speech, language development, reading and learning. A hearing screening can detect if your child needs further hearing testing. Even if your child has passed a hearing screening previously, their hearing can change. Hearing problems can also be related to medical problems. Hearing loss is invisible and the child could appear to be not paying attention.

Vision screening will consist of one or more of the following:

- 1) Distance visual acuity-ability to see objects far away
- 2) Binocular vision-how well your child's eyes work together
- 3) Color vision-ability to see colors
- 4) Near visual acuity-ability to see objects up close

Hearing screenings will consist of:

- 1) Audiometry-Screening of hearing acuity

If your child passes the above screenings, you may not be contacted. You are welcome to contact the school nurse to learn the screening findings. If your child fails any part of the screenings, a rescreen and/or referral will be made. A referral is a letter sent to the parent recommending further evaluation by your physician or eye care specialist.

**\*\*Children may be exempted from vision or hearing screening if they have been examined by a regularly licensed physician (for vision or hearing) or optometrist (for vision) during the 12 months immediately preceding the screening date and they have provided documentation from physician along with a request from parent to not screen.**

Screenings are just a snapshot of how your child performs on the day the screening is administered and is not a substitute for a complete hearing or eye exam. If you have any questions about the school vision and hearing screening program, please contact the school nurse.

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