

Inspire Learning. **Unlock Potential. Empower Achievement.**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

We would like to take this opportunity to remind you of the Iowa Immunization law for the start of the 2019/2020 school year. All students entering 7th grade must have both a **Meningococcal vaccine** and a **Tdap** (Tetanus, Diphtheria, and Pertussis/whooping cough) booster (or letter of exemption) prior to the first day of school.

If your student has not received immunizations required, your incoming 7th grader will not be allowed to start on the first day of school.

The Tdap requirement has been in place for several years and requires a booster dose of Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis containing vaccine for students entering 7th grade, *regardless of the interval since the last Tetanus/Diphtheria containing vaccine*. Pertussis (whooping cough) is a very contagious disease that causes violent coughing fits that make it hard to breathe.

The requirement is for a Meningococcal vaccine started in 2017. Meningococcal disease is a life threatening illness caused by bacteria that infects the brain, blood, and spinal cord. It easily spreads in crowded settings. **The vaccine will be required prior to both the 7th and 12th grades.**

All students entering 7th grade must have proof of having both the Meningococcal and the Tdap vaccines **before school starts in August**, unless the student has a Certificate of Immunization Exemption on file in our Health Office.

There will be no grace/extension period for the implementation of this requirement. Your student will not be able to attend August 23rd without both of these vaccines.

Please check with your student's care provider to see if they have already received the required immunizations. If they have, please have them fax a copy of the current immunization record to our office at 373-4930. If they have not had the immunizations, please schedule an appointment as soon as possible. We feel by being proactive and sharing this information with you early, you will have plenty of time to meet the requirement of having your child vaccinated prior to the first day of school. If you have any questions, please call Jana or myself at 319-447-3137.

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