

MARSHALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS

**SERIES 400
STUDENTS**

Administrative Exhibit 453.31 (1)

LETTER TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS REGARDING CASES OF HEAD LICE

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Head lice have just been discovered in your child's classroom. Your child was checked and was found to have them. All students with lice – or suspected of having them – are sent home as required by state regulations with instructions for treatment. Your child may return to school after treatment and removal of nits. You may wish to consult your doctor or follow the recommendations on the attached sheet. Please check your child's head to make sure he/she is lice and nit free before sending him/her back into the classroom. The label on some special lice shampoos or rinses says it isn't necessary to remove nits. However, research at this point shows that no shampoo/rinse kills 100 percent of the nits.

We are instituting special cleaning procedures and taking extra precautions concerning the students' handling of their clothes, along with asking parents/guardians to do daily head checks. We want to do everything we can to prevent spreading and reinfestation so that neither of us will have to go through the tedious cleaning procedure again. You can help by checking your child's head every day for the next few weeks to make sure that he/she remains lice and nit free.

Head lice outbreaks have become common in the schools and do not reflect upon a person's living conditions. We know that head lice do not care if they are on a clean head or a dirty one and they do not discriminate between classes. All they care about is finding a warm head on which to live. They spread easily among school children as they may transfer from head to head or from their clothes or personal items such as combs and brushes. We urge the students to not trade or share these items and to avoid hanging their coats and sweaters where they may touch others. When there is an infestation we treat it as matter-of-factly as possible and urge you to do the same, even though it may be upsetting to you. We have found that most students do not become upset about having an insect on their heads unless the adults are upset.

We realize that head lice in the home can be very frustrating to get rid of and embarrassing for you and your children. We also realize that it is a situation that can be difficult to deal with, but it must be. We are sorry for your inconvenience and are anxious to work with you.

Please call us if you have any questions or if we can be of any help to you. For further information contact the School Nurse at 655-1588 or Dane County Public Health Nursing at 608-242-6520.

Date of Adoption: October 18, 2006