



Camille A. Harmon
Principal

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Bayside Middle School

965 Newtown Road Virginia Beach, VA 23462
(757)648-4400 Fax: (757)473-5185

Towana Hunter, Ed.D.
Guidance Department Chair

Erin Vickrey
School Improvement Specialist

Kayla Inabinett
Student Activities Coordinator

Tasha Wearren
Administrative Assistant

Dear Parent/Guardian,

You are receiving this letter because you have chosen remote learning for your student during the 2020-21 school year.

Vision and Hearing screenings are done every school year on all students who are new to the Virginia Beach City Public Schools and on all 7th grade students. This screening is significant to the students' ability to learn and succeed. These screenings help find those students that struggle with seeing or hearing but have often found a way to compensate in the classroom. We will often find between 30-50 students annually who directly benefit from vision correction because of this screening.

The face to face students have already received this vital screening this school year during their core classes. Several of the remote learners also had their vision and hearing screened this school year when they came in for their SOL exams or when they came in for their school pictures.

If your child has not come in for the vision and hearing screening this school year and you would like to have your child screened, please call the school nurse at 757-648-4407 for an appointment to come into the clinic for the screening. Your child will also receive their copies of the Title I books when they participate.

The VDOE (Virginia Department of Education) is allowing a parent to waive the Vision and Hearing screening during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

A waiver of the requirement in § 22.1-273 and 8VAC20-250-10 that the principal of each public school shall cause the hearing and vision of students in grades K, 3, 7, and 10 to be screened in the 2020-2021 school year if a student is entirely virtual and a parent provides a written declination of screening services. Prior to declination, the parent must be informed of the benefits of vision and hearing screens for a student's health and wellbeing.

You may decline this service by providing the school nurse with a signed copy of the statement below. The signed copy can be mailed, faxed, dropped off or mailed to the school nurse.

Sincerely,

Camille Harmon, Principal

Nancy K. Hardison RN, School Nurse





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School Year 2020/2021

In order for a parent to opt out of Virginia State mandated Health Screenings for their child, you first must be informed of the benefits of School Health Screenings. Please read the following on Hearing and Vision Screenings. If you choose to opt out, please sign the bottom of this form and return it to our school nurse, Nancy Hardison, RN.

Benefits of School Hearing Screening

School-age hearing screenings are an integral tool in identifying children with hearing loss who were not identified at birth, lost to follow-up, or who developed hearing loss later. Without mandated routine hearing screenings in schools, students with unilateral, less severe or late onset hearing loss may not be identified or will be misdiagnosed and managed. Efforts to provide consistent protocols, screener training and follow-up through school-age will help ensure that children with hearing loss are identified and managed in a timely manner, and thereby minimize negative academic consequences.

Benefits of School Vision Screening

Vision impairments in children are common and uncorrected vision problems can impair child development, lead to behavior problems in the classroom, interfere with early literacy and learning, and lead to permanent vision loss. Early detection and treatment are critical. Additionally, visual functioning is a strong predictor of academic performance in school-age children, and vision disorders of childhood may continue to affect health and well-being throughout adulthood.

I have read and understand the benefits of School Health Screenings. I do not wish to have my child _____ participate in School Health Screenings at this time.

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Sincerely,

Camille Harmon, Principal
Bayside Middle School

