

HEALTH AND FAMILY SERVICES

HEALTH SERVICES

“You cannot educate a child who is not healthy and you cannot keep a child healthy who is not educated.” This quote by Dr. Jocelyn Elders, a former U.S. Surgeon General, summarizes our priority for the Blaine School District Nursing Services. Each student’s readiness to learn is directly impacted by his or her general health and well-being. By providing your child with well-balanced nutrition, adequate rest, regular exercise and routine health maintenance by a health care provider, you will play a significant role in their learning success.

The school nurses this year are Margaret Gibson, RN, BSN, and Cheryl Greathouse, RN, BSN. They will work with you to keep your child in school, in class, and ready to learn.

Some of the ways they serve the district health needs are as follows:

- evaluating and identifying student health needs,
- implementing plans for chronic health conditions,
- responding to injuries, illnesses and emergencies,
- promoting healthy choices,
- training staff to respond to emergencies, and
- supervising prescribed treatments and medications.

In addition, school nurses conduct state mandated vision and hearing screening for K-2, 3, 5, and 7 and scoliosis screening for grades 5, 7, and 9 with referrals and follow up as needed.

GENERAL HEALTH INFORMATION

It is essential that parents can be contacted if their child is injured or sick. Please be sure the school has your current emergency contact information.

Please do not send a child to school who has a fever, is vomiting, or is obviously sick. Contact your family doctor for advice.

If possible, prescribed medications for your child should be given at home. If medications need to be given at school, a signed authorization form (available in school offices) must accompany all medications with all appropriate information.

If your child has head lice, please contact the school nurse for effective treatment to get your student quickly back into school.

CHILD ABUSE

Washington State Law RCW26.44.040 states when school professionals have “reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered child abuse or neglect, he/she shall report such incident, or cause a report to be made to the proper law enforcement agency or to the department of social and health service.” The law continues, “Any other person who has reasonable cause to believe that a child has suffered child abuse or neglect may report such incident.” The telephone number for Child Protective Services is 354-4183.

WHATCOM ALLIANCE FOR HEALTHCARE ACCESS (WAHA)

The Whatcom Alliance for Healthcare Access (WAHA) is a nonprofit community service that partners with our school district to offer families free, impartial information on state and commercial health insurance programs. WAHA’s insurance counselors are available to help families look at their options and complete state application forms. Call 788-6594 or e-mail them at waha@hinet.org

BLAINE FAMILY SERVICE CENTER

Created in 1997 through a Readiness To Learn grant, the Blaine Family Service Center is directed by a mission to link human services, education and local resources in support of healthy families, safe environments and the realization of children’s potential. Services and issues with which we can help are: basic needs, school supplies, energy assistance, GED and ELL classes, family literacy, housing referrals, domestic violence, and Medicaid enrollment among others. We are located over the middle school gym and can be reached during school hours at 332-0740.