



A Letter from Nurse Kitchen



Greetings to our returning students and a big welcome to all our incoming 6th Grade students! Though some of you will be here with us physically while others will be with us remotely, I am very excited to welcome you into the 2020-2021 school year as your Nurse.

To the parents and caregivers, I know that deciding on what option to choose may have been a difficult one, so I would like to assure you that we will do everything we can to maintain the health and wellness of your students. Please be sure to familiarize yourself with the Alabama Public Department of Health recommended guidelines for returning to school, which can be found here:

<https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/covid19/schools.html>

In accordance with the Alabama Department of Health guidelines, along with CDC guidelines, and directives from the county board, we will do some things differently than we have in previous years. Please understand these new processes may be inconvenient and at times frustrating, but I ask that you be patient and understanding as we go through these unusual times together.

- **Medication drop off:**

Medication drop off will be by appointment only. At this time, we are only accepting medications that have been ordered by a physician. Please make sure that the Parent Prescriber Authorization (PPA) has been completed accurately with the proper medication name, dosage, time of administration, start and end date, and physician's signature. Over the counter medications will not be accepted, unless a physician has required this medication be given at school. Only one person is allowed at the appointment. A mask is mandatory. Please bring your own pen to sign any necessary documents.

- **Medication administration times:**

Medications will no longer be administered at 8:00AM or 2:00PM. This does not include diabetic treatments or emergency medications.

- **Onsite visits:**

As of now anyone who is not a student or faculty/staff member at Echols Middle School is not allowed to enter the building. Scheduled medication drop offs will occur outside of the building door leading into the new Nurse's office. Please arrive on time for your appointments and allow ample time to complete the medication drop off process. To ensure the privacy of those who might come before and after you, we ask that you remain in your vehicle until 5 minutes before your appointment time.

A Letter from Nurse Kitchen cont.....

- **New Nurse's Office location:**

The new Nurse's office is in Room 162. This is the former Tech /Home Economics classroom. Directly next door to the Nurse's office will be an isolation room for those who must be isolated due to showing signs and symptoms of Covid-19. Students placed in isolation will need to be picked up as soon as possible. If multiple students must be isolated at the same time, they will be separated by 6 feet with a privacy curtain. All students placed in isolation must wear a mask regardless of any mask mandates that have been put in place. Please refer again to the ADPH guidelines to understand when isolation may be needed for your student. The word isolation sounds scary, but we will make sure that the room is soothing and calm as your student awaits pickup from their loved one.

- **Communication:**

Please make sure all contact information is accurate and updated as needed throughout the school year. Please save the Echols phone number in your phone so that you can identify us when we call. **The number is 205-342-2884.**

- **Immunizations:**

All incoming 6th Graders that are 11 years old by the first day of school (8/20/2020) must have their TDAP immunization completed to be considered up to date. Please send in your updated immunization record, with your student or by fax, email, or USPS. This is a requirement by the Alabama Department of Health.

In closing, I do recognize this will be a new challenge for all of us. This will require a great deal of patience and sacrifice. The safety and well-being of our students and faculty/staff is our top priority as we navigate these uncertain times. I know without a doubt we will emerge from this Wildcat Strong! Please do not hesitate to reach out to me with any questions or concerns you have. Please allow me 24 hours to respond during weekdays. I will have a lot of responsibility on my plate, and I do not want you to feel ignored.

In health,

Eunive Kitchen, LPN
Echols Middle School Nurse