620 Wilcox Street
Castle Rock, Colorado 80104

VISION and HEARING SCREENINGS

Dear Parents and Guardians:

Each year, Douglas County Schools conducts vision and hearing screenings for all students in the state-mandated grades (K, 1, 2, 3, 5, 7, and 9), as well as new students and special education students in all grades. The screenings are overseen by the School Nurse Consultants and conducted by the District Vision and Hearing Screening Team. The purpose of mass screenings is to detect academically significant vision and hearing concerns.

What to Know About Vision Screenings

Vision screens will be conducted using a Sloan standardized letter chart, an LEA symbol chart, and/or the Spot Vision Screener. The Spot Vision Photo Screener is powered by sophisticated technology that detects the indication of the following vision issues: near-sightedness, far-sightedness, unequal refractive power, blurred vision, pupil size deviations, and eye misalignment. **Students with glasses or corrective lenses are encouraged to wear them for the screen to avoid unnecessary referrals for an eye exam.**

Referral letters will be mailed to the parents of students who do not pass the vision screening. **Please return the completed referral form to your student's school to assist us in updating your student's records**. Any questions that you may have about the vision screening can be answered by the school nurse at the phone number listed below.

These screens should not be considered a substitute for a professional eye exam, particularly in students who experience difficulty with visual tasks or have frequent visual complaints.

What to Know About Hearing Screenings

Hearing screens will be conducted using either pure tone audiometry or non-behavioral otoacoustic emission testing. Kindergarten and first-grade students are particularly susceptible to ear infections and will also be screened using standard tympanometry for any middle ear issues.

Students who do not pass the initial hearing screening will be referred to the DCSD Audiology Department for further screening. The audiology team will communicate directly with parents/guardians via email, directing them to their Parent Portal for the results of the Audiology screens.

The hearing screen may be done on a day your child has a cold or an ear infection. If your child is on medication for an ear problem and is being followed by your doctor, please inform your school nurse.

If a student is being followed by a DCSD Audiologist, no hearing screen will be performed at this time.

Opting Out

To opt your child out of the vision or hearing screening, submit your written request to your school or school nurse at least one day prior to the screening so that the request can be sent to the appropriate personnel.

Thank you in advance for your support of these very important programs.

Nurse: Kelly Driver, RN, BSN, NCSN. 720-284-7545