



Building Excellence
Health Services

Parents – This is the time of the year for colds, flu and other childhood illnesses. A common childhood nuisance that is often seen is head lice. Anyone can get head lice. It has nothing to do with cleanliness. Head lice live on human heads only. Head Lice do not fly or jump. Direct, physical, hair to hair contact is the usual method of transmission, and sharing of personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, clips, clothes and bedding. Avoid sleepovers and slumber parties during lice outbreaks.

If lice are found in your child hair. Your child should be treated immediately. Please contact your healthcare provider or pharmacy for advice. Recommended treatment includes using either a prescription or store-bought lice killing product. Carefully follow the directions included with the product.

It is the policy of the Baldwin County Board of Education that no child will be allowed to attend school until after he or she has been properly treated with an appropriate louse killing product, and no lice or nits are seen. Mature lice are the size of a sesame seed and are usually found close to the scalp. The lice/nits are yellowish-white, tear drop shaped, and are firmly attached at an angle to the hair shaft close to the scalp, behind the ears and on the back of the neck. Lice avoid light and are therefore, hard to see. A fine-tooth comb maybe helpful with removal, but many nits must be stripped from the hair shaft. Grasp nits between the fingers and slide them off the hair shaft. Please read the attached “Parent Information Sheet”. You may also contact your school nurse for further instructions. For directions on how to control the spread of lice at home, use the following link: www.cdc.gov/lice/head/treatment.html.

Students who are properly treated and are free of lice and nits are permitted to return to school within 24 hours. Students are allowed a maximum of 3 consecutive days for treatment and removal of nits. All other absences due to head lice are unexcused.

Per BCBE policy, no child can attend class until the school nurse has cleared them to return. A doctor or health department excuse does not pre-empt these requirements. Head lice are not a medical condition, but if left untreated head sores may develop from constant scratching of the head. **These sores may become infected with bacteria normally found on a person’s skin.** It is our goal to keep our students healthy and attending school.