

Brunswick Schools

Important Information on Head Lice

Just hearing the words "head lice" can make your head feel itchy. But when a case of head lice is discovered in a classroom panic sets in.

Head lice crawl. They do not hop or fly. The primary mode of transmission is from direct head to head contact. They can also be transmitted by personal items such as combs and hats. Head lice do not transmit disease and are not considered a medical or public health hazard. They are not a sign of poor hygiene.

Head lice should not cause students to miss school. By the time a student is identified as having head lice they have probably had it for a month and pose little additional risk of transmitting it to other students. For this reason a student with head lice will remain in school for the rest of the day and will return to school after initiating treatment.

Classroom-wide head checks and no-nit policies have been eliminated after research has shown them to have little effectiveness in the incidence of head lice in the school setting.

Students with head lice will be handled on a case-by-case basis. There will not be classroom-wide or school-wide letters being sent home to parents reporting a case of head lice. The classroom teacher will be notified that a student in their class has head lice and if any other students are suspected of having head lice the teacher will send that student to the school nurse for a head check.

To lessen the chance of your child "catching" head lice:

- Have them avoid head to head contact with other children
- Discourage the sharing of personal items such as combs, brushes, headbands and hats
- Check their heads on a weekly basis and after sleep-over's

For more information on head lice visit the CDC website:

<http://www.cdc.gov/parasites/lice/head/parents.html>

Please do not hesitate to contact your child's school nurse if you have any questions or concerns.