



Potlatch School District No. 285  
130 Sixth St.  
Potlatch, ID 83855-8757

District Office (208)875-0327  
Elementary School (208)875-1331  
Jr.-Sr. High School (208)875-1231  
FAX (208)875-1028

September 8, 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians:

Hello students and families! I hope you all had a healthy, safe summer. I wish to welcome all of our returning and new students and their parents to the Potlatch School District. This year is certainly new and different with the presence of COVID-19. We are working diligently to keep our district as safe as possible for all of our students and staff. We are all so appreciative of your patience and understanding as we navigate our way through this pandemic. My hope is for a safe and successful school year for everyone. As in the past, it is truly an honor for me to have the opportunity to work with you and your children.

Part of the health services offered to our students are vision and hearing screenings. Vision screening takes place for all students grades K-9, with any other students upon parent request. Hearing screening takes place for grades K, 1<sup>st</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and any other students upon request. Please contact me if you have any concerns about your child's vision and hearing as I am glad to screen or rescreen them anytime.

I also develop care plans as needed for any of our students with chronic health concerns, and emergency care plans for those with urgent issues such as severe bee sting or food allergies. Please fill out and return the Medical History Form and don't hesitate to let the school know of any health concerns your child may have so we can have those health care plans in place.

Please be aware of the Idaho State immunization requirements for entrance into school which affects all students grades K-12. Requirements vary by date of birth, but boosters are required for incoming **Kindergarten** students. In addition, **all 7<sup>th</sup> graders** need one Tdap and one Meningitis immunization. If your child is in grades 8-12<sup>th</sup> and has not yet had a Tdap and meningitis booster then these 2 immunizations are required for entrance into school. Additionally, **all Seniors** starting this year are required to have a second Meningitis vaccine. All immunizations need to be completed **prior** to the beginning of the school year. Parents do have the right to exempt out of immunizations; the exemption form needs to be signed and on file prior to the beginning of the school year. There is a link on the Potlatch School District website with the required immunization schedule for your reference, and I welcome your questions regarding this as it can be confusing.



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We will need a signed “Medication Authorization” form for any medications to be given to your child here at school. This form will also need to be signed by your medical provider for all prescription medications with dosage instructions. All medications, including over the counter meds, such as Tylenol or allergy medicine, need to be provided in the original container along with the “Medication Authorization” form signed by the parent/guardian with instructions for dosage and frequency of use.

“Growing Up” classes are offered to students in grades 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup>. These classes usually take place in the early spring. The focus is on normal growth and development of individuals and the changes that occur during puberty. Classes are given separately to the boys and girls and all materials are available for parent/guardian preview upon request. We will notify parents prior to the class presentations and you are welcome to join us.

I am available here at school three days per week usually Monday, Tues and Thurs. I plan to start the year with mornings at the Elementary school and afternoons at the Jr Sr High School. I encourage you to contact me if you have any questions or concerns related to the health of your child, or any of the above services offered. If I am unavailable at the time please feel free to leave a message and I will return your call as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Dona Merrell, RN, BSN  
Potlach School Nurse