



Annual Notification 3-13-24

To: Staff, Parents, Guardians
From: Michael Hinckley-Gordon
Re: Pests, Pesticides and your right to know
Cc: Gary Dugal, Matthew Newburg

Pest Control:

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents and weeds our school focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pests' problems and prevent the pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and as a last resort – pesticides. This holistic approach is often called **Integrated Pest Management. (IPM)**

Pesticide Use:

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff have a right to know.

Your Right To Know:

Parents, legal guardians, and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide application made at the school. Notification will be given at least 5 days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide applications notices will also be posted in school and on school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law to pose little or no risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the school's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in School Regulation (CMR 01-026 Chapter 27) by contacting our IPM Coordinator, Michael Hinckley-Gordon at 238-4098, mhinckley-gordon@gwh.org.

For future information about pest, pesticides and your right to know, call the Board of Pesticides at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at WWW.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm