



Lice Policy

From time to time, MMS experiences an outbreak of lice. Lice are harmless, but they are highly contagious. Children can pick up lice anywhere, and all schools experience lice outbreaks occasionally.

Children who are found to have active lice will need to be picked up from school and treated. After treatment, and, more importantly, meticulous combing and manual searching to remove lice and nits, the student may return to school as long as no live lice are present.

Follow-up checks will be made to confirm that no active lice are present. If a student is found to have nits, but no live lice, he or she may remain in school, and the parents will be notified so that treatment can be continued.

Lice are small, wingless bugs, grey to rusty-brown in color, about the size of a sesame seed. If a family member is affected, all the members of the household should be checked. Additionally, everything that has been in contact with the infested person's head needs to be laundered, dry cleaned, or vacuumed.

Special products for treating lice are available in drug stores, and also through lice-treatment services. While these products are an important component of treatment, the most effective solution is to remove the lice and nits manually. Nits are difficult to see, and the use of bright light and magnification may be helpful.

The following sources may provide helpful information about lice:

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

<http://www.hsph.harvard.edu/headlice.html>