February 1, 2016

Subject: Immunization Requirements for Seventh (7th) Grade

Dear parents and guardians of sixth-grade students:

In June, Gov. Jerry Brown signed Senate Bill 277 (SB277) into law. The legislation provides that parents and guardians will no longer be able to refuse to vaccinate their children based on personal belief exemptions if their children attend public or private school. The law went into effect January 1, 2016.

State law requires all kindergarten and seventh-grade students have certain vaccinations as conditions for enrollment. As such, our current sixth-grade students will be required to provide proof of needed vaccinations before they will be able to start the seventh grade in August 2016. Students can be admitted conditionally to the seventh grade if their records indicate that they are in the process of getting the vaccinations and following the missing dose schedules (see attached chart for all required vaccinations).

Although SB277 does not allow for personal belief exemptions, it does allow for medical and homeschool/independent study exemptions. The medical exemption can only be obtained from a licensed medical doctor (M.D.) or a doctor of osteopathic medicine (D.O.). There is not a specific form for the medical exemption. Instead, a doctor must generate a letter on official letterhead with the following information:

- confirmation that immunization is not recommended based on the child’s physical or medical condition
- identification of which vaccines are being exempted
- a statement of whether the medical exemption is permanent or temporary
- signed and dated by the medical provider

Students who do not provide proof of meeting vaccination requirements by the first day of school for the 2016-2017 school year will not be allowed to attend school until proof is provided.

In the coming months, school and district officials will be reaching out to individual families whose sixth-grade students are missing required vaccinations. In the meantime, please see the attached guides for more information, or visit www.shotsforschool.org, a website run by the California Department of Public Health. For information about low-cost options for obtaining needed vaccinations, including at the San Juan Central Immunization Clinic, visit www.sanjuan.edu/health. You may also contact Jenny Amador, Lead School Nurse, at (916) 971-7643. For questions specific to your child’s health or immunization needs, we encourage you to contact your child’s physician.

Our district is committed to making sure our schools are safe, healthy learning environments where all of our students can thrive. Thank you for your help in achieving these goals.

Sincerely,

Linda M. Bessire, Ed. D,
Director, Pupil Personnel Services