

Medications What Every Parent Should Know

Many of you may not be aware that Gull Lake Community Schools has their very own school nurse. I have been with the district for almost a year and medications are one of my top priorities. With so many papers and forms that periodically come home from school, it's no wonder that some get lost in the shuffle.

We began using a new medication form at the beginning of the 2005-2006 school year. This form is required for ALL medications that will be administered at school. If your student needs to have a **PRESCRIPTION** medication administered at school, the medication authorization form must be filled out and signed by the physician and the parent. **The prescription bottle dose must match the dose written on the authorization form.** Most pharmacists will make a prescription bottle for school use if asked. If your physician changes the dose of medication, a new form must be filled out and signed by the physician. In order to better serve your student and decrease the amount of calls home, I encourage all parents to provide the main offices with OTC (over the counter) medications at the beginning of every school year. Medications like Tylenol, Advil, cough syrup, cough drops need to be provided in **the original container.** **We will not accept medications whether prescription or OTC in baggies or other containers.** Parents need to fill out the medication authorization form and sign it in order for these medications to be administered during school hours. Each building has a supply of authorization forms located in the main office.

The High School is the only building that provides parents and students with the option of self-administering medications. If a parent desires to have their student receive the medication in the main office, they may do so. Any student who is self-medicating should have orders on file in the office. If a student is self-administering Ritalin, they should have only one dose that they need to take that day on their person. Ritalin is a scheduled drug (controlled substance) with a high potential for abuse. The medication should be in its original container so the student can verify what the medication if they are questioned. Please feel free to contact me with any comments or concerns at 629-5803, x234. I am more than happy to mail forms home and answer any questions that arise. Thank you for helping to ensure safe medication practices in our district.