

# Chester Shell Elementary

21633 SE 65<sup>th</sup> Avenue Hawthorne, Florida (352) 481-1901

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Shell Elementary encourages perfect attendance from students. However, when students are sick, they must take the time they need to rest, recoup, and heal before coming back to school. A child who is sick will not be able to perform well in school and is likely to spread the illness to other children and staff. We recommend making a plan for childcare ahead of time so you will not be caught without a comforting place for your child to stay if he/she is ill.

Many parents ask, "When is my child sick considered "too sick" to attend school?" This is not an easy question to answer. We hope these guidelines can help!

Our school board policy states that you should not send your child to school if he or she has:

- Fever – not to return to school until fever free for 24 hours *without* Tylenol, Ibuprofen, or other fever reducing medicine (fever is defined as a temperature equal to or greater than 100.4 F).
- Vomiting and/or diarrhea within the past 24 hours.
- Strep Throat (must have been taking an antibiotic for at least 24 hours before returning to school).
- Head lice – until your child has been treated according to the nurse or doctor's instructions. Children should be nit and bug free before returning to school.

If your child becomes ill at school and the school nurse feels your child is too sick to benefit from school or is contagious to other children, you will be contacted and required to pick your child up from school. It is essential that the school has a phone number where you can be contacted during the day and an emergency number in the event you cannot be reached.

Cold and Flu Season is upon us, so please keep your child home if they exhibit any of the symptoms/conditions listed above. These guidelines are meant to serve the best interests of all the children in school and help decrease the spread of illnesses. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call.

The Shell Elementary Team