

Dear ACS Families,



We are sending this letter to all parents to increase head lice awareness so that you may take steps at home to help prevent your child from becoming infested with head lice. Any time children come together, particularly at the start of the school year or following any social grouping outside of school or sleepovers, detected head lice cases commonly increase. Recent studies show that head lice are seldom spread in the school setting.

Direct, physical, head-to-head contact is the usual method of transmission. Lice do not jump or fly. They survive only for a short time away from the human head and have difficulty crawling or clinging to smooth surfaces. Check your child's head weekly for lice and/or nits (eggs). Mature lice, which are no bigger than a sesame seed, avoid light and are hard to see. Lice eggs or "nits" are usually found close to the scalp – usually within one quarter inch. They appear as tiny whitish ovals that are "glued" to the hair shaft. They cannot easily be flicked away as dandruff can. Head lice do not transmit disease and are not a serious medical condition. They cannot survive on your pets.

If you find head lice on your child, **please notify the school** and treat him/her with lice shampoo following package instructions. You may also contact an outside source for assistance such as The Lice Boutique or Remedy. Continue to examine the child and all family members for three weeks and treat only if live lice or nits are found one quarter inch or less from the scalp.

- Check Regularly – Treat Quickly Help Keep Head Lice Off Your Child
Teach your child **not** to share or trade personal items such as hats, combs, brushes, headbands, and barrettes.
- Contain long hair in braids or ponytails, especially in younger children.
- Teach children to avoid head-to-head contact.

For more information regarding head lice or its treatment, please feel free to contact the school office or your local health department. Or visit https://www.michigan.gov/documents/Final_Michigan_Head_Lice_Manual_103750_7.pdf

Thank you for your help and support.

Sincerely,

ACS Administration and Staff

NOTE:

We have had one reported case this year and our policy is to inform the students in that child's class. If more cases are reported we share information more broadly, always keeping names in strict confidence. We are adhering to protocols and have heard of no new cases.

Reporting cases is the single best way to help us control the spread. We have not experienced a problem with widespread outbreaks since implementing our plan of action.