

Dear New Lebanon Families:

RE: Head *Lice*

The American Academy of Pediatrics and the NY State Department of Health recommend that children not miss school because of head lice.

Head lice are mostly spread by direct head to head contact rather than casual contact. For example; during play at home or in school, sporting activities, camp, sleepovers, ect. Although not common, it is possible to spread head lice through contact with clothing such as hats, scarves, coats, and other personal items. They do not jump or fly.

- Please inspect your child's head for the possibility of head lice. Look for small silvery "nits" fixed to the hair shaft close to the scalp. Unlike dandruff, they are not easily removed.
- Where nits have hatched, live lice may be seen.
- Please call your healthcare provider regarding appropriate treatment for your child.
- Follow all directions for medication carefully.
- Cream rinse/conditioners can decrease the effectiveness of the treatment.

During the school year, it is a good idea to check your child's head weekly or when he or she complains of an "itchy" scalp.

We are available to answer questions regarding head lice. You may also find this NY State FAQ site helpful:

<http://www.schoolhealthservicesny.com/faq.cfm?subpage=80>.

Sincerely,

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New Lebanon Jr/Sr HS

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