

PRE-SCREENED LETTER TO PARENTS

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Lovelady Independent School District will be conducting spinal screening on Tuesday, **April 4 through April 8, 2016**. The purpose of a spinal screening is to detect the signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages so that the need for treatment can be determined. Scoliosis, a common spinal abnormality found in adolescents, is a sideways twisting of the spine. It is usually detected in children between 10 and 16 years of age. Kyphosis, sometimes called round back, is an exaggerated rounding of the upper back and is often confused with poor posture. Many cases of curvature of the spine are mild and require only ongoing observation by a physician when they are first diagnosed. Others can worsen with time as the child grows and requires active treatment such as bracing or surgery. Early treatment can prevent the development of a severe deformity, which can affect a person's appearance and health.

The procedure for screening is simple. Screeners who have been specially trained, like myself will look at your child's back while he/she stands with feet apart and bends forward. This examination will take place during PE or Sports Athletics class. The boys and girls will be screened separately and individually.

**BOYS WILL WEAR GYM SHORTS AND REMOVE THEIR SHIRTS.
GIRLS ARE REQUESTED TO WEAR A HALTER TOP AND SHORTS OR A
TWO PIECE SWIMSUIT. THIS IS FOR THE SCREENING ONLY.
STUDENTS WILL BE ASKED TO CHANGE INTO THE ABOVE MENTIONED
CLOTHING BEFORE THE SCREENING AND THEN CHANGE BACK INTO
SCHOOL CLOTHES ONCE THE SCREENING IS COMPLETE.**

Parents will be notified of the results of the screening only if professional follow-up is necessary. This screening procedure does not replace your child's need for regular health care and check-ups.

According to law, all children in grades 6 and 9 are required to be screened. If, for religious reasons you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit an Affidavit of Exemption to the office no later than **March 28**. This form can be picked up in the nurse's office.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Winnie McKnight, RN
School Nurse
(936) 636-7832 Ext.237

