



MOUNTAIN VIEW ELEMENTARY

A Seventh-day Adventist Christian School

1010 Clements Road ◦ Missoula, MT ◦ 59804 ◦ (406) 543-6223

SCHOOL HEAD LICE POLICY

The School Board recognizes its responsibility to all students enrolled at Mountain View Elementary to provide a safe and healthy environment in which they may attend school. One inhibitor to a healthy environment is the head louse (*Pediculus capitis*). Head lice infestations must be addressed in schools if a healthy environment is to be maintained. Every attempt will be made to educate students and parents on the prevention and eradication of head lice before and after infestation is detected.

The innocent desire of children to be social and the communicable nature of lice requires preventive measures by the school district and the public health agency to contain infestations. MVE will work cooperatively with the public health agency to ensure that infestations of head lice are contained and eradicated in the school.

In the interest of health and welfare of students enrolled at MVE, no student will be permitted to attend classes if they are infested with head lice and/or nits. Parents or Guardians will be notified by phone when head lice are identified with the obligation of removing the child until successfully treated.

To avoid embarrassment and to contain the infestation, whole classrooms will be checked for head lice upon the report of possible infestation by a classroom teacher. The administrator, head teacher, his/her designee, school nurse or another designated professional will examine the child in question and their classmates. Siblings of students found with lice and their classmates will also be checked if there is suspicion that infestation may exist.

The student found with head lice is to be kept out of school until he/she is treated and hair is free of lice and nits. A child may return to school after being successfully treated so that no live lice or nits are detected by the school nurse or a designated school official.

Parents or guardians will be informed of lice infestation by a letter that explains the problem, lists the procedures for treatment and requirements for reentering school. Every attempt will be made to contact parents or guardians immediately upon discovery of head lice. Parents will be asked to come to school to pick up the student and begin treatment immediately.