

Imagine Environmental Science Academy

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Mrs. Ashley VanderMeer School Leader

July 25th, 2023

School Vision, Hearing, Speech Screening Notification

Dear Parents/Guardians:

The purpose of vision and hearing screening is to aid in the detection of school-age children who have or are at risk for developing vision/hearing/speech disorders. These screenings are required by the State of Ohio (ORC 3313.673) a child's screening and assessment data cannot be used to determine eligibility to enter kindergarten. The only criterion for entrance into kindergarten is age eligibility. By November 1 of the school year in which a child is enrolled for the first time, the child must be screened for vision, hearing, speech and communication, medical problems and any developmental disorders. If the screening reveals the possibility of potential learning needs, the District must provide further assessment. Schools must note that screenings are not intended to diagnose educational disability or to be used for placement procedures. Screening results are helpful in identifying areas of individual development that require further assessment for educational programming, particularly for students who might benefit from early intervention, prevention, acceleration and/or enrichment programs. A parent may sign a statement that they do not wish to have the child screened.

Students who will be screened by November 1st is as follows per Ohio Law:

- All new students
- All students in grades K, 1, 3, 5
- All students with undocumented follow-up from the 2019-2020 school year

Why is it important to have your child's vision and hearing screened at school?

- To identify if your child has vision problems or might be at risk for vision problems.
- Hearing is important for speech, language development, reading, and learning.
- A hearing screening can detect if your child needs further hearing testing.
- Even if your child has passed a hearing screening previously, their hearing can change.
- Hearing problems can be related to medical problems.

What tests are included in my child's vision screen?

- Observation (all grades)
- Monocular distance acuity (all grades)
- Ocular muscle balance test (First grade)
- Stereopsis test (Kindergarten and First grade)
- Color deficit test (males only, in Kindergarten or First grade)

What tests are included in my child's hearing screen?

- Audiometry: Screening of hearing acuity

How will I find out the results of my child's vision and screening results?

- If your child passes the vision and hearing screening, you may not be contacted by the school.

Developing Character, Enriching Minds

Imagine Environmental Science Academy is committed to a policy of non-discrimination. The school does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability, or age in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following person has been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies: Ashley Lee, School Leader, 1030 Clay Avenue, Toledo, OH 43608 419-727-9900.

- If your child fails the screening, you will be informed of the test results and provided with referral paperwork.

What do I need to do if my child fails the vision or hearing screening?

- Vision and hearing screening provides a snapshot of how your child performs on the day the test was administered and is not a substitute for a complete eye exam by an optometrist/ophthalmologist or audiologist/ENT.
- Follow up should be arranged with an eye specialist (optometrist or ophthalmologist) or a hearing specialist (audiologist or ENT).
- Provide the specialist with the referral paperwork and return it to the school once it has been completed.

Who is required to be screened for speech?

- All kindergarten students
- Any student referred by a staff member

Why do students need to be screened for speech?

- Speech screening allows a speech-language pathologist to observe the child's language understanding and use, production of speech sounds, vocal and nasal quality, and social language skills. The screening is typically a checklist that a speech-language pathologist administers in approximately 15-20 minutes. Most screening tools yield a "pass" or "did not pass" if there are areas of concern. If a child did not pass the screening, a comprehensive full speech-language evaluation is typically recommended. Following this process, an intervention plan is created and proposed if needed.
- Speech and language skills are used in every part of learning and communicating with other children in school. In Kindergarten, children learn the routine and structure of a typical school day and need to be able to follow directions, understand ideas learned in class, communicate well with their classmates and teachers, practice beginning reading and use appropriate social skills within the classroom and during play

*****If you should choose opt-out of any part of the school vision, hearing, or speech screening, a written request will need to be provided to the school.

Thank you,

Mrs. Ashley VanderMeer

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