

SISD SPINAL

PRE-SCREENING LETTER TO PARENTS

Date: 1/22/2013

Dear Parent/Guardian:

The Smithville Junior High School **6th grade** will be conducting spinal screening starting on **February 7th, 2013**. The purpose of 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 14 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 require active treatment such as bracing and 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 will look at your Child's back while he/she stands and then bends forward. For this examination, boys and girls will be seen separately and individually.

STUDENTS SHOULD WEAR OR BRING SHORTS TO SCHOOL FOR THE EXAM. ALL STUDENTS MUST REMOVE THEIR SHIRT FOR THIS EXAM. FOR THIS REASON, WE REQUEST THAT GIRLS WEAR A HALTER TOP, TUBE TOP, SPORTS BRA, OR A TWO-PIECE SWIMSUIT TOP UNDERNEATH THEIR SHIRT ON EXAM DAY.

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 state law, all students in grades 6 and 9 must receive the spinal screening.

If you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit a letter from the doctor stating that your child was screened by a doctor and submitted to the nurse's office no later than February 6th, 2013.

Thank you for your cooperation,

Sincerely,

Sophie Weinheimer, RN

Health Services Coordinator