

SAMPLE MEMO TO PARENTS – ELEMENTARY

Dear Parents:

_____ School is instituting a “Fragrance/Scent-Safe” environment in our school, effective _____ (date). This requirement is a necessary response to a medical concern and will apply to all staff, students, parents, visitors, and volunteers who work or visit the school.

Background

Fragrances and scents are found in a wide range of products including perfume, aftershave, deodorant, soap, air fresheners, fabric softeners, laundry detergents, facial tissues, and candles. Exposure to fragrances and other scented products may trigger adverse health reactions (i.e. asthma attack, anaphylactic reaction and shortness of breath) in individuals with asthma, allergies, migraines or chemical sensitivities. Other less serious but equally debilitating symptoms include headache, sore throat, runny nose, sinus congestion, wheezing, dizziness, anxiety, anger, nausea, fatigue, mental confusion and an inability to concentrate.

Moving towards a fragrance/scent-safe environment

In order to protect those individuals with sensitivities to fragrances and scents, and to possibly prevent others from developing such sensitivities, we are asking for your cooperation towards a fragrance/scent-safe environment in the workplace. Employees, students and visitors are being requested to avoid the use of these products while at school.

While it is recognized that it is a personal choice to use fragrances or scented products, the chemicals from these products are, by their very nature, shared as they vaporize into the air and are easily inhaled by others. Today’s fragrances and scented products are made up of a complex mixture of chemicals which can contribute to indoor quality problems and cause health problems.

What can you do to help?

Be considerate of those who are sensitive to fragrances and scents. Avoid using these products in the school.

- If fragrances or scented products must be used, do so sparingly. A general guideline for fragrances and scented products is that they should not be detectable more than an arm’s length away from you.
- Discuss the issue with your children.
- Please understand that this issue is not about you or about your choice of fragrance or scent, but it is about the adverse reaction the use of the product may cause.
- The success of our fragrance/scent-free initiative will depend upon the thoughtfulness, consideration and cooperation of everyone within the school community.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Principal
School