

Dear Parents/ Guardians :

The health screening for 8th grade students this year will be on the following date:

8th Grade-Feb. 21..... Scoliosis Screening

The purpose of scoliosis screening is to detect any signs of abnormal curves of the spine at their earliest stages, so the need for treatment can be determined. Scoliosis, a side-to-side curvature of the spine, is usually detected between the ages of 10 and 14. Many cases of scoliosis are mild and require only ongoing observation by a physician.

The screening will be done by trained school nurses. The nurse will look at your child's back while he/she stands and bends forward. Boys and girls will be screened separately. Students will be screened privately as well, since screening will require the removal of shirt or blouse. Girls are encouraged to wear a bra, sports bra, or bikini top during the screening.

The purpose of Acanthosis Nigricans or AN screening is to detect a black-brown velvety marker that usually appears on the back of the neck. This marker is caused by too much insulin in the blood. AN is a pre-diabetic condition and serves as an indicator of risk for Type 2 diabetes.

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

According to Texas state law, all students are required to be screened. If you do not wish to have your child screened at school, you will need to provide written documentation from a physician that your child has been checked for scoliosis and/or AN. If for religious reasons you do not wish to have your child screened, you must submit an affidavit of exemption to the clinic no later than January 30 , 2012.

If you have any questions, I can be reached in the Gunn Junior High Clinic at 682-867-5406.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Darnell, RN, BSN
Gunn Junior High Clinic