

Gorham School Department – Department of Facilities Management

Dear Parent/Guardian and/or staff member,

We are writing about three subjects that can affect children's health in school, pests, pesticides and your right to know.

Pest Control

Because pesticides pose risks, the school uses an alternative approach to merely applying pesticides. Control of insects, rodents and weeds at our schools focus on making the school building and grounds an unfavorable place for pests to live and breed. Through maintenance and cleaning, we will reduce or eliminate available food and water sources and hiding places for the pests. We will also routinely monitor the school area to detect pest problems and prevent pests from becoming established. Some techniques we will use include non-toxic pest monitoring, sanitation, pest exclusion, proper food storage, pest removal and – as a last resort – This holistic approach is often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Accordingly, we have contracted with Atlantic Pest Management – an IPM Certified company, to implement and administer our IPM program along with Egbert's Lawn Care, LLC and Sports Fields, Inc.

Pesticide Use

Sometimes pesticide use may be necessary to control a pest problem. When that happens, the school will use the lowest risk products available. If higher risk pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites and parents, guardians and staff have a right to know.

Your Right To Know

Parents. Legal guardians and school staff will be notified of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive information, you must be placed on the notification registry each year. Notification will be given at least five days before planned pesticide applications. Pesticide application notices will also be posted in the school and on the school grounds. Notification need not be given for pesticide applications recognized by law that pose little or no known risk of exposure to children or staff.

The school also keeps records of prior pesticide applications and information about the pesticides used. You may review these records, a copy of the Gorham School Department's Integrated Pest Management Policy and the Pesticides in Schools regulation (CMR 01-026, Chapter 27), by contacting our IPM Coordinator at 222-1147.

For additional information, call the Board of Pesticides Control at 207-287-2731 or visit the Maine School IPM web site at www.thinkfirstspraylast.org/schoolipm

