

VISION/HEARING CONCERNS

It is important that teachers and parents be aware of the signs and symptoms of vision and hearing problems.

Signs and symptoms of vision problems may include:

- Shuts or covers one eye
- Rubs eyes frequently
- Thrusts head forward
- Frowns, scowls, squints or blinks frequently
- Headaches
- History of an eye injury
- Discharge or bleeding from eye
- Significant reading problems, skips lines
- Inability to differentiate colors
- Confuses letters and numbers with a similar shape
- Holds reading material too close or too far from face
- Difficulties with seeing close work
- Dizziness, headaches or nausea following close work
- Requests to be seated close to the chalkboard
- Lids encrusted, red-rimmed, swollen or droopy
- Pupils different in size or shape
- Tilting head
- Eyes water
- Face puckers
- Light sensitive
- Complaints of eye pain
- Undue clumsiness
- Complaints of blurred vision
- Unequal eye movement

Signs and symptoms of hearing problems may include:

- Irrelevant answers to questions
- Turning one side of head toward speaker
- Talking either too loudly or softly
- Indistinct speech, slurring or omission of sounds
- Recurrent ear infections or upper respiratory infection
- Frequent requests to repeat what has just been said
- Ear complaints
- Watching the lips of a speaker
- Inattentive to classroom discussion
- Makes mistakes in following directions
- Sensation of dizziness and imbalance
- Mouth breathing
- Draining ears

Please refer any students you suspect may have a vision or hearing problem to their parent/guardian for a professional exam.

Vision resources for parents and school personnel:

www.preventblindness.org

www.preventblindness.org/wi