

Tri-Creek School Corporation's Notice of Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Use

Dear Parent/Guardian:

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

Pest/Weed Control

Because pesticides/herbicides pose risks, Tri-Creek School Corporation follows a strict Integrated Pest Management (IPM) program that adheres to federal and state guidelines. Control of insects, rodents, and weeds at our schools focuses 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, 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 often called Integrated Pest Management (IPM).

Accordingly, we are currently contracted with Monroe Pest Control, an IPM-Certified company, to administer our pest control throughout the district. In addition, our staff includes a state-licensed Category 3B and Category 7A pesticide/herbicide applicator along with a state-certified IPM manager.

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 pesticides must be used, notices will be posted at application sites, and notification will be sent to those people who have completed the Notification for Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Use at Tri-Creek School Corporation form.

Herbicide/Fertilizer Use

Herbicides and fertilizers are necessary to maintain certain high school and middle school athletic fields and control weeds at each building. When chemicals are used, the district will use the lowest risk products available. If herbicides/fertilizers must be used, notices will be posted at application sites, and notification will be sent to those people who have completed the Notification for Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Use at Tri-Creek School Corporation.

Your Right to Know

Parents/legal guardians and school staff will be notified 48 hours in advance of specific pesticide/herbicide/ fertilizer applications made at the school. **To receive notification**, you must be placed on the notification registry each year. To be placed on the notification registry, you **MUST** complete and return the attached notification form (SEE BELOW). Notification will be given at least two days (48 hours) before planned pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer applications. Application notices will also be posted in the school and on the school grounds. Notification need not be given for 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 or the Integrated Pest Management Policy during normal school business hours by contacting Tri-Creek School Corporation's IPM Coordinator, Mr. Alan Fox, at (219) 690-2610.

For additional information, feel free to contact me at any time at the Tri-Creek School Corporation Administration Center at (219) 696-6661.

Sincerely,

Nathan Kleefisch, Ed.D
Director of Operations/School Safety

Notification for Pesticide/Herbicide/Fertilizer Use at Tri-Creek School Corporation

(Revised: June 3, 2011)

I would like to be notified before any specific pesticide/herbicide/fertilizer applications are made at this school (see below). I understand that I will be notified after the application, if the situation requires an additional application of these products. I also understand that there will be no notification for any EPA-exempt pesticides, herbicides, or fertilizers or bait and gel products.

Name of School: _____

Name of Parent/Guardian: _____

Name of Student(s): _____

Date: _____

Notification message will be sent via Tri-Creek School Corporation's AlertNow notification system. Please provide the following information:

Home/Cell Telephone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Please return this completed form to your child's school.