



Central R-III Schools

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

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Dr. Ashley McMillian - Superintendent
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2/20/2020

Parents/Guardians of Central R-III School District:

In order to place consistent information out to our entire District, the High School had a bed bug sighting last week. At that time, the source (a backpack) was found and dealt with accordingly. Mr. Johnson, High School Principal, became very proactive and instantly put information out to students, staff, and parents of the sighting and what to look for. Immediately, professionals were called, including the St. Francois County Health Department. We have been following guidelines provided to us by those professionals. The High School has been treated nightly, over the weekend, and extremely heavy in any area where a sighting occurred. As a precaution, we are also beginning treatment on all campus buildings and on buses, although we have not had any sightings anywhere outside the High School, including buses.

No professional has stated we have an infestation or recommended, at any time, closing down the building. Sightings have been random in the building over the past week and approximately a dozen live bugs and three dead ones have been reported. We have a device, much like an oven, specifically that chrome books and cases can be placed in to “bake” and kill bed bugs. This is a device the District has owned and used in previous years. If we were to receive information on a specific room with an infestation, the room would be shut off and a heat treatment of that room would be conducted. You must understand, shutting a building down and turning the heat “up” in a building will serve no purpose.

I cannot, and will not, guarantee a bed bug will not be seen on a campus, just like I can’t guarantee a “bed bug free” environment in a restaurant, retail store, home, etc. What I can guarantee is that the District will act accordingly to manage a sighting when, or if, it occurs. The High School staff, including and especially custodians, have done an outstanding job.

If you would like to check your students when they arrive home, thoroughly check backpacks, chrome books, chrome book cases, and books. You must check in the crevices of those items. Furthermore, a household dryer will kill any bed bug found on clothing.

Sincerely,

Ashley McMillian, Ed.D.
Superintendent
Central R-III School District