



# KOUNTZE MIDDLE SCHOOL

*"Educational Excellence"*

Dear Parent/Guardian:

March 11, 2019

The Texas State Legislature passed a law in 1985 that requires all sixth and ninth (or fifth and eighth) grade students to be screened for spinal deformities. Early detection of abnormal spinal curvature can prevent serious health problems. This is a problem that may begin during the early adolescent years (from 10 – 14 years of age), with an estimated 1 in 10 adolescents having some degree of abnormal curvature. Curves that are detected early may only require periodic observation by a specialist. Moderate curves may require the wearing of a brace, which is usually supervised by an orthopedic specialist. In most cases, the need for major surgery for this deformity can be eliminated through early detection.

Spinal screening for Kountze Middle School children has been scheduled to begin on Monday March 18, 2019.

ALL STUDENTS MUST REMOVE THEIR SHIRT FOR THIS EXAM. FOR THIS REASON, WE REQUEST THAT GIRLS WEAR A HALTER TOP, TUBE TOP, SPORTS BRA, OR A TWO-PIECE SWIMSUIT TOP UNDERNEATH THEIR SHIRT ON EXAM DAY.

Children will be screened for two types of spinal deformities: scoliosis and kyphosis. Scoliosis is a condition in which the spine is twisted, causing misalignment of the upper body or lower back. This condition can worsen and lead to much pain, as well as complications of the heart and lungs. Kyphosis is an exaggerated rounding of the spine. Progression of these two conditions can often be arrested if detected early.

Parents will be notified of the results of the screening only if professional follow-up is necessary. Screenings are referred for a curvature of 7 degrees or more. This screening procedure does not replace your child's need for regular health care and checkups. While school screeners can identify physical findings that may suggest spinal curves, they cannot diagnose the reason for the finding or its significance. If, for religious reasons, you do not wish to have your child screened, you are to submit an affidavit of religious exemption to this office by Friday, April 10, 2015.

For more information regarding state-mandated spinal screening in Texas schools, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services at 1-800-252-8023.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Sherri Allen, LVN  
Kountze Middle School  
Health Services