October 3, 2016

Dear Parents and Guardians,

 Did you know, according to the Georgia Department of Education, that preventable illnesses, such as the flu, are the #1 reason for school absences in Georgia? Did you know that in 2012-2013, the average household missed three days of school due to the flu? (Walgreens Flu Impact Survey) And that 90 percent of the children who died from the flu during the same flu season were not vaccinated? (CDC)
 It is for these reasons, and more, that we have partnered with Open Hearts Health Services 4 Kids LLC (OHHS4K) and the Family Health Centers of Georgia (FHCG), to provide convenient, in-school flu vaccination clinics in selected schools in our district. The mission is to **Block the Flu** and increase learning days and healthy hygiene habits for students in the Atlanta Public School District.
 The injectable flu vaccination, administered by licensed professionals, is offered to every child, with consent, at no cost to parents or schools. There is no office visit charge, out-of-pocket or deductible billed to parents for children with health insurance, Medicaid/Peachcare Kids. The flu vaccine is covered by over 99% of health insurance plans with immunization benefits.
 Children 8 and younger, who have not previously had a flu vaccination, will need a second dose. Open Hearts will return to administer the second dose approximately 30 days following the initial vaccination.
 **Our flu clinics at both Brandon campuses will be on October 24, 2016 between 8 and 11:00 AM. To have your child vaccinated, please fill out the consent form accurately and completely, with requested allergy and insurance information, and an attached copy of your health insurance card, and return to your school by October 17, 2016.**
 Consent forms can also be filled out and submitted to www.OpenheartsHS4Kids.com with an uploaded copy of your insurance card, or you can text a picture of your consent form and insurance card to 404-293-2745, or via fax at 404-551-3448. Please note that if you do text your form you must still return the hard copy of your consent form to school by the deadline.
 All consent forms returned by designated date will be entered into the **Block** **the Flu** raffle, making your child’s class eligible to win a pizza party and other exciting prizes.
 We are delighted to offer this opportunity to you and your family to keep our students happy, healthy and learning.

Sincerely,

Michael-Renee Godfrey, PsyD, RN, LPC, DCC, CPCS

Comprehensive Health Services Manager