

# Octorara Administration Office

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**Michele M. Orner Ed.D.**  
Superintendent of Schools

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Dear Octorara Families:

In an effort to protect every student from pesticide exposure, the Octorara Area School District uses an Integrated Pest Management (IPM) approach for managing insects, rodents, and weeds. Our IPM approach focuses on making the school buildings and grounds an unfavorable habitat for pests by removing food and water sources and eliminating their hiding and breeding places. We accomplish this through routine cleaning and maintenance.

The school campus is routinely monitored to detect any pests that are present. Pest sightings are reported to the school district's IPM Coordinator who evaluates the concern and determines the appropriate pest management techniques to address the problem. These techniques range from adjusting sanitation practices, modifying storage spaces, sealing entry points, removing the pest, etc.

On occasion, it may be necessary to use chemicals to manage a pest problem. Chemicals will only be used when necessary and will not be routinely applied. When chemicals are used, the school will try to use non-toxic products when possible. Applications will be made only after normal school hours. Notices will be placed in the affected areas 72 hours prior to application and for 48 hours following the application.

Parents or guardians of hypersensitive students enrolled in the Octorara Area School District and OASD staff members may request prior notification of specific pesticide applications made at the school. To receive notification, you must be placed on the school's notification registry. If you would like to be placed on this registry, please notify the district in writing. Please include a name and phone number, or email address if you would like to be notified electronically. Each year the district will prepare a new notification.

If a chemical application must be made to control an emergency pest problem, notice will be provided via telephone to any individual who has requested such notification in writing. Exemptions to this notification include disinfectants and antimicrobial products, self-containerized baits placed in areas not accessible to students, and gel baits placed in cracks, crevices, voids.

If you have any questions, please contact the Facilities Department at 610-593-8238 extension 3571.

Sincerely,  
Michele M. Orner, Ed.D.  
Superintendent of Schools