



INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT

A Guide for Teachers and Staff

What is Integrated Pest Management (IPM)?

IPM is a program that manages pests with control methods that have the least possible hazard to people, property and the environment. To eliminate the use of pesticides it is critical that we understand the pest life cycle to implement a successful IPM program. Habitats that provide pests with the essential three items (food, water and shelter) are the most likely to become infested. Pest populations can be controlled in many situations by eliminating one or all habitat essentials. However, IPM programs take advantage of all pest management options including the use of pesticides when needed.

In the Classroom

The most efficient way to deal with a pest is to prevent them. Teachers play a vital role in pest management in their classroom. As a teacher you have the ability to regulate what comes into your classroom and how it is stored. So why do some have pests?

Food will never be eliminated completely from the classroom. Holiday treats and the possible classroom meal are going to happen. It is the teacher's job to help manage the cleanup and storage of these food items. The use of plastic storage containers with a lid or even a zip-lock freezer bag can make all the difference to prevent a pest. Garbage and recycling bins should be emptied regularly and should never overflow. If you notice the need for garbage bins to be emptied please contact a custodian.

Water/moisture creates an inviting habitat for classroom pests. If you notice leaky pipes or faucets the custodial staff should be notified. Water or liquid spills of any kind should be cleaned up immediately. Please make an effort to keep carpeted areas as clean as possible.

Shelter is created by the way classroom materials are stored. Corrugated cardboard is one of the most used shelters for pests. German cockroaches are easily transported in the air channels, mice build nests out of it and many other pests use it as harborage. Use plastic bins or crates instead of cardboard for long term storage. Clutter is what a pest is looking for to make a home. Clutter is difficult to clean around which means it rarely gets moved. This allows pest to live the good life undisturbed. Take action on what can be organized and help remove the risk of a pest infestation.

Monitoring pest activity is important for a successful Integrated Pest Management program. You can help by reporting pests in your classroom and following the food, water and shelter tips shared above. It takes everyone's participation to keep pests out of our school. Thanks for all you do to support a pest free zone.