

October 29, 2009

Dear Parent or Guardian:

This letter is to inform you that Harmony Elementary will not hold school tomorrow, Friday, October 30, 2009, based on the recommendation of public health officials. The East Metro Health District recommended the closure as a large number of students recently have shown symptoms of gastroenteritis, sometimes referred to as the "stomach flu". Gastroenteritis often causes diarrhea and/or vomiting. Health officials tell us these symptoms usually develop in one to two days after exposure and most people get better in one to 10 days without medication.

Please be assured that we are working very closely with the East Metro Health District as we follow their recommendations and monitor our students who have become ill. In order to protect your family from this illness, health officials also recommend the following precautions:

- Watch your child and members of your family to see if they develop diarrhea, and/or vomiting.
- If your child develops diarrhea, contact your child's physician. Inform your doctor that students diagnosed with gastroenteritis attend your child's school.
- Encourage your child and family members to thoroughly wash their hands before preparing or eating food, after using the toilet, and upon returning home from school in the afternoons.

Attached you will find the Health Department's fact sheet, which includes additional information about gastroenteritis. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact your child's physician. You also may contact the East Metro Health District, which services Gwinnett County, at (770) 339-4260.

Sincerely,
Harmony Elementary Administration