



St. Bruno Catholic School

15700 Citrustree Road

(562) 943-8812

Whittier, California 90603-2499

*Working in partnership with families for the **total development** of our children
so that they may grow in wisdom, age, and grace
in the sight of God and the community.*

Dear Parent or Guardian:

To make sure your child is ready for school, California law, *Education Code* Section 49452.8, now requires that your child have an oral health assessment (dental check-up) by May 31 in either kindergarten or first grade, whichever is his or her first year in public school. Assessments that have happened within the 12 months before your child enters school also meet this requirement. The law specifies that the assessment must be done by a licensed dentist or other licensed or registered dental health professional.

Take the attached Oral Health Assessment/Waiver Request form to the dental office, as it will be needed for your child's check-up. If you cannot take your child for this required assessment, please indicate the reason for this in Section 3 of the form. You can get more copies of the necessary form at your child's school or online from the California Department of Education's Web site at <http://www.cde.ca.gov/ls/he/hn/> . California law requires schools to maintain the privacy of students' health information. Your child's identity will not be associated with any report produced as a result of this requirement.

Baby teeth are very important. They are not just teeth that will fall out. Children need their teeth to eat properly, talk, smile, and feel good about themselves. Children with cavities may have difficulty eating, stop smiling, and have problems paying attention and learning at school. Tooth decay is an infection that does not heal and can be painful if left without treatment. If cavities are not treated, children can become sick enough to require emergency room treatment, and their adult teeth may be permanently damaged.

Many things influence a child's progress and success in school, including health. Children must be healthy to learn, and children with cavities are not healthy. Cavities are preventable, but they affect more children than any other chronic disease.

If you have questions about the new oral health assessment requirement, please contact me at 562-943-8812 ext 112 between the hours of 8:30am – 1:30pm. or you can see <http://www.cde.ca.gov/lshe/hn/oralhealth.asp>.

Sincerely,

Caroline Garcia,
St. Bruno Healthroom Coordinator