

Dear McDevitt Middle School Families:

I hope you are all having a safe and enjoyable summer. We are looking forward to welcoming students back to school in a few weeks, and have been hard at work during the summer making sure things are in great shape for opening school on **August 29**.

As you begin your back-to-school shopping, please take careful note that McDevitt Middle School is moving towards becoming a latex-sensitive school. We are making this shift to meet the health needs of all of our students. The school administration is working closely with our teachers and district coordinators to reduce the presence of latex in our school.

At the end of this email and attached as a .PDF, you will find a list of items that commonly contain Latex, as well as many latex-free alternatives. (Please note: this is not an exhaustive list. There are other products, easily available, not mentioned here.)

Here are a few resources to learn more about what it means to be a latex-free school:

American Latex Allergy Association:

<http://latexallergyresources.org/articles/web-article-creating-safe-school-latex-sensitive-children>

Allergy & Asthma:

<http://www.allergyandasthma.com/home/patient-education-resources/latex-allergy/abcs-of-latex-allergy>

Here is a an online discount school supply store useful for searching/purchasing latex-free school supplies:

<http://www.discountschoolsupply.com/Product/ProductList.aspx?category=0&keyword=latex+free&scategoryid=All+Categories&fq=>

Lastly, the General Manager at Staples in Waltham, Josh Rutkowski, is preparing to have his team able to answer any questions you may have about latex-free school supplies. Please feel free to visit him at the store or send him an email: Joshua.rutkowski@stples.com

If you should have any questions at all about this shift, please do not hesitate to contact McDevitt Middle School Assistant Principal, Tyler Steffey at [\(781\) 314-5590](tel:(781)314-5590) or the Waltham Public Schools Director of Nursing, Patricia McCaffrey, at [\(781\) 314-5462](tel:(781)314-5462).

Thanks, in advance, for ensuring that all McDevitt students are safe and comfortable in our school.