Dear Parent or Legal Guardian,

Today, a bed bug was found on your child or in your child’s belongings. While this does not necessarily mean that the bed bug was brought to school by your child, it is important to your child’s health and to the school community that you inspect your home for signs of bed bugs. Below you will find information about bed bugs and an identification guide to help you with your inspection. **Once you have inspected your home, please fill out the form on the back of this letter and return it to the school office by ______________.**

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**Helpful Ways to Eliminate Bed Bugs in the Home**

1. Remove any clutter from your home. Highly cluttered homes and bedrooms provide bed bugs with numerous places to hide.

2. Use a vacuum to clean away any debris. It makes it easier to determine if the bed bugs are dead or alive. Make sure that the infested vacuum bag is thrown away outside of the building.

3. Put infested clothing in a hot dryer to kill bed bugs and their eggs. Heat can also be used to kill bed bugs in furniture and carpeting by using a steamer.

4. Cover your mattresses/boxsprings with encasements. Encasements are intended to seal your mattress/boxspring so that no bed bugs can infest your mattress, and any bed bugs currently infesting your mattress can never bite through or escape from the encasement. (It is important that the mattress encasements you purchase have a zipper that will close completely.)

**Basic Facts About Bed Bugs**

1. Adult bed bugs are about 3/16- inch long and reddish-brown, with oval, flattened bodies. They can be mistaken for ticks or cockroaches. Immature bedbugs are smaller and lighter in color.

2. Bed bugs do not fly, but can move rapidly over floors, walls, ceilings and other surfaces.

3. Unlike head lice, they do not live on people. However, they can hitchhike in backpacks, clothing, luggage, books, etc.

4. Bed bugs are active mainly at night. During the day, they hide close to where people sleep.

5. A common concern with bed bugs is whether they transmit disease. Although they can harbor pathogens, transmission to humans is considered unlikely.
Parent Acknowledgment Form

I have been informed that a bed bug was found on my child at school. I understand that I must take action to prevent the spread of bed bugs to the school community. I have read and understood the educational materials provided to me regarding bed bugs, and have:

□ carefully checked my family and home for signs of bed bug infestation myself.

□ hired a pest management professional to check my family and home for signs of bed bug infestation. Name of Pest Control Company: ________________________________.

After completing a careful inspection, I certify that to the best of my knowledge:

□ I or a pest management professional found signs of bed bugs in my home, and I will take the following actions to eliminate this infestation:

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________

□ I or a pest management professional did not find signs of bed bugs in my home at this time. If I find evidence of bed bugs in the future, I will notify the school immediately and take action to address the infestation.

I understand that bed bugs can be spread to other homes if they are brought to school in backpacks, clothing, and other belongings. I understand that if bed bugs are repeatedly found on my child, the school will refer me to the Florida Department of Health-Duval School Health office for further assistance.

Parent’s Signature ___________________________ Date ________________

Pest management professional’s signature ________________________________