



## Let's Do Our Part and Be Pest Smart!

Happy Holidays DPSCD Family. It is that time of year again to perform best management practices to help keep pests out of our schools and everyone can help!

Pests need food, water, and a place to live. The following tips will help keep pests out and prevent pests from taking over your school during the Christmas Break and other extended school breaks:

1. Keep things “pest clean” Get rid of Clutter (Conduct a Schoolwide “De-Clutter Day” before extended breaks)
  - a. Clean out desks, lockers, and closets, and remove food, and open beverages and condiments like ketchup, honey, and sauce packets from these areas. Mice and rats will find these and eat them. Other pests such as roaches, ants, fruit flies, and gnats will be attracted to the opened packets and opened beverage containers.
  - b. Throw out old papers and remove clothing from all lockers and closet floors. These make nice warm nests for pests.
  - c. Get rid of old and damaged books, cardboard boxes, and cardboard. Roaches love to live in cardboard and eat the glue that binds cardboard boxes and books.
  - d. Repair leaking sinks and drains, pests especially roaches love moist areas. This is also a source of drinking water. Report any plumbing issues to the Engineer.
  - e. Do not leave food or drinks in the trash or throw drinks down the sink without running water as this will attract gnats, fruit flies, and other pests.
  - f. Make sure to clean out microwave ovens and refrigerators, throw away old food items from the refrigerator, and ensure no food residues are left in the microwaves.
2. Store food in food-safe containers and ensure perishable food is properly stored in refrigerators and freezers or thrown out before extended breaks.
  - a. During extended breaks, it is important to remove all food and items including juice boxes and pouches from classrooms and offices.
  - b. Remember mice and rats can chew through plastic.
  - c. Store non-perishable food items on shelves away from the floor (for kitchen staff).
3. Monitor for pests
  - a. Report pest sightings immediately to DPSCD Environmental Health and Safety.
  - b. Make sure to log pest sightings in the school's pest logbook.
  - c. Make sure to keep exterior doors and windows closed.
  - d. Repair or install door sweeps on all exterior doors to prevent pests from coming into the school (report these to the Engineer).

For additional information on the district’s integrated pest management program please get in touch with Michael Flowers, Assistant Director, Environmental Health and Safety at 313-578-7431 or email at [michael.flowers@detroitk12.org](mailto:michael.flowers@detroitk12.org). Have a safe, healthy, and happy holiday season!