

The Harker School

Green Business Fragrance-Free Products Policy

Fragrance-containing chemical products such as air fresheners and scented cleaning agents contain chemicals that turn into vapor at room temperature. These particulates enter our bodies through our respiratory systems and by absorption through the skin. In recent years these chemicals have been known to affect air quality and human health causing headaches, upper respiratory symptoms, shortness of breath, and difficulty with concentration in many individuals. Those with allergies and asthma report that certain odors, even in small amounts, can trigger symptoms. It is also known that children and adolescents are more susceptible to the effects of chemical exposure than adults. As a Certified Green Business and educational facility The Harker School is committed to providing a healthy environment for our students, employees and visitors.

For this reason The Harker School will work with facilities management to ensure that products used to clean the workplace are fragrance-free and that best practices are followed to limit student and employee exposure to cleaning chemicals. The Harker School will also require that all employees refrain from bringing personal cleaning products to campus. The Harker School recognizes the hazards caused by exposure to scented products and cleaning chemicals and this policy will help provide a fragrance-free environment for all students, employees and visitors. This policy applies to both employees and vendors of the school.

Policies

1. The Harker School expects that all classrooms, offices and campus spaces used by students, staff or visitors remain free of scented products.
2. Use of air fresheners, plug-ins, potpourri's, scented candles or other room scenting products are prohibited on any campus.
3. Use of cleaning products other than those purchased by The Harker School, including hand soaps and surface cleaners, are prohibited on campus.
4. In consideration of co-workers and students with chemical sensitivities, the use of heavily-scented personal care products, such as strong colognes or perfumes that are perceptible to others, are discouraged on school premises.

Procedure

1. Employees will be informed of The Harker School's Fragrance-Free Products Policy through policy distribution and signs posted throughout the campuses.
2. Vendors will be informed of The Harker School's Fragrance-Free Product Policy by their school contacts.
3. Any employee with a concern about scents or odors should contact his or her manager or the Human Resource Department.