Dear Parent/Guardian,

During a recent color vision test, your child was found to have a color vision deficiency. This is not considered a serious disability; however, its presence is important knowledge for parents and school personnel.

Color vision deficiency is the inability to distinguish between certain shades of color. The difficulty with color perception usually involves the discernment of red and green or those colors with a red and green in them. For example, a person with a color deficiency may view red, orange, and green objects as yellow objects or violet and purple objects as dull blue. True color blindness, in which everything is seen in shades of gray, is rare.

Color vision deficiency is an inherited condition which affects one in twelve boys and is seldom found in females. There is no treatment for color vision deficiency, it is not a disease. Fortunately, this condition is more of an inconvenience than a disability. Most people with a color vision deficiency adapt by learning to distinguish colors according to varying degrees of brightness.

Awareness of the color vision deficiency is important because it may affect a person’s performance in educational activities. We suggest you share this information with your child’s teacher at the beginning of each school year. In addition, a color vision deficiency may exclude some people from certain occupations for which normal color vision is required. If you would like more information regarding your child’s color vision deficiency, please contact your family eye care specialist.