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*Our Mission: "Inspire a caring community to ignite learning, innovation, and success for all."*

Dear JES Families,

This letter is being written to share facts regarding misinformation about indoor air quality that is spreading among our JES community.

Jordan School District contracts with a reputable health and safety contractor called the Institute for Environmental Assessment (IEA). IEA is the health and safety contractor for many local schools and has a very good reputation for providing districts with support to keep their buildings healthy. IEA is on site throughout the school year on regularly scheduled visits to perform visual inspections of the facilities, work with our school district health and safety committee, and provide support for special projects that involve hazardous substances such as boiler treatment, cleaning, and science chemicals.

The Jordan Schools have worked hard over the past 18 months to upgrade systems, put daily, weekly, and monthly cleaning checklists in place, and to create a building project ticketing system that allows our facility director and custodial staff to be proactive regarding common school custodial issues.

In November, 2014, I was informed by several staff members at JES that there were questions about air quality. I immediately contacted IEA. It was determined that the district would contract with IEA to conduct an indoor air quality (IAQ) assessment to address concerns. The assessment, which included a thorough visual inspection for moisture and fungal growth, measurement of IAQ parameters, and fungal sampling, was performed immediately. The IAQ parameters were within the normal operational ranges. They did show that there was one classroom that had elevated airborne fungal counts. IEA recommended some additional cleaning such as the wiping of hard surfaces with bleach and the use of a HEPA vacuum to clean porous surfaces. These additional cleaning measures took place immediately. Shortly thereafter, the classroom and several other random areas of the building were retested for airborne fungal levels. All of the post-cleaning sampling results indicated normal airborne fungal conditions.

The results from our consultant's assessment of concern areas indicate that the indoor air quality in these areas is not jeopardizing the health of our students or

employees. For this reason, I did not write this letter sooner. The results we received are not uncommon for schools or other indoor environments. I felt that a letter would create unnecessary concern when the building was deemed healthy during the entire process.

Out of concern for the safety of our students and staff, I ordered fungal sampling to be performed monthly for the remainder of the 2014-2015 school year. It should be noted once again that it is not common for schools to do in-depth air quality testing; however, I want to ensure our families and employees that the air quality in the building is acceptable.

The test results are public documents and are available for review in the district office. To review them, please set up an appointment with me.

I believe that trust and health is important and at no time would I want to jeopardize this with families, students, or employees. As a parent of two children in the elementary school, I also have a very personal connection to JES and want it to be safe for all children, including my own.

If at any time I was informed by our consultants that the environment was unsafe, I would take action immediately to ensure that measures be taken to protect the health of our students and employees. I take the recommendations of our professional contractors very seriously and have worked with our facilities director to focus on cleaning strategies and high functioning mechanical equipment.

Please contact me directly at 952-492-4226 and I will be available to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Matthew Helgersen  
Superintendent