



Matthew Helgerson, Superintendent of Schools
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Our Mission: "Inspire a caring community to ignite learning, innovation, and success for all."

April 8, 2015

Dear JES Families,

As you may recall, on February 18, 2015, I wrote to you to address some misinformation that was spreading among our JES community about air quality issues at Jordan Elementary School. It has come to my attention that misconceptions are again circulating that there is a mold issue at JES and that this topic may become the subject of one or more news reports.

I want to reassure you that nothing new has occurred since my last communication with you. Jordan Elementary School remains a safe environment for our students and staff. The School District continues to contract 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 20 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.

While the School District did receive questions from staff at JES about air quality in November of 2014, the School District immediately contracted with IEA to conduct an indoor air quality (IAQ) assessment to address potential 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 other areas of the building were retested for airborne fungal levels. More specifically, we conducted additional tests in December of 2014 and again in February of 2015. All of the post-cleaning sampling results showed normal airborne fungal conditions. Additional tests are being

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performed during the remainder of this school year as I want to continue to assure our families and employees that air quality in the building remains safe. If this condition were to change, rest assured I would notify our families and staff immediately.

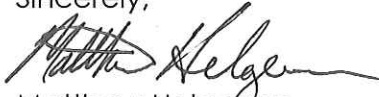
As I previously mentioned, the air quality test results of Jordan Elementary are public documents. I previously offered to share these with you upon request. For your convenience, I am having these reports posted on our website as soon as possible. You will be able to find them at <http://www.jordan.k12.mn.us/page/2591>.

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 professional contractors very seriously and have worked with our facilities director to focus on cleaning strategies and high functioning mechanical equipment.

Despite these assurances, if you have particular concerns about your child or if you have additional questions, please contact me directly at 952-492-4226. I will be available to answer any additional questions you may have.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew Helgeson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Helgeson
Superintendent