



October 5, 2016

Dear Elementary School Parents,

As you know from my recent communication, in light of water quality concerns across the country, and in accordance with new guidance from New York State, the Katonah-Lewisboro School District has just conducted water quality testing in our three elementary schools. The water was tested for traces of lead using a protocol set by state and federal regulatory agencies.

The protocol called for water samples to be drawn from all sinks and water fountains after the water had been standing in the pipes for at least eight hours, and again after running the water for 30 seconds. Lead found in tap water usually comes from the corrosion of older fixtures or from solder used to connect pipes. When water sits in leaded pipes for several hours, lead can leach into the water. Running water for 30 seconds to two minutes usually results in dramatically lower levels of lead.

Results of the testing were received today. We are pleased to report that **all** water fountains and **all** fixtures in food preparation areas were below the 15 parts per billion limit set for lead in drinking water. Overall, of the 163 samples taken (after water sat for eight hours), 14 tested above the lead limits. When the water was retested after allowing it to run for 30 seconds, only one sample still tested above the limits. The samples that exceeded the limits occurred primarily in bathroom sinks and in sinks in a few other areas (details are provided on the next page).

In accordance with guidance from New York State, the district will immediately shut down some sinks, but will also keep some sinks in service since shutting them down could lead to other health issues (consider the importance of handwashing, for example, in a bathroom). The Centers for Disease Control has said that it is safe to shower or bathe in water that exceeds lead limits. Signs, including pictures, will be placed above sinks where lead levels exceed the guidelines directing children not to drink the water and teachers will reinforce this message.

The health and welfare of our students and staff are of primary concern to the district. As we move to further address this issue, some fixtures and pipes will likely be replaced. Testing will be conducted in the Middle School and John Jay High School this month and results will be shared with the community as soon as they are available.

Sincerely,

Paul Christensen

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Director of Facilities

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Here are the details of fixtures tested in our three schools:

- **Katonah Elementary School** – All fixtures tested below the set limits.
- **Increase Miller Elementary School** – Three fixtures tested above the set limits as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Wing/Location</u>	<u>Fixture</u>	<u>Number</u>
IMES	C-11/ Faculty Bath RM	Sink	1
IMES	C-6/ Boys Bathroom	Center Sink	1
IMES	D/ Common Area	Sink	1

- **Meadow Pond Elementary School** – Eleven fixtures tested above the set limits as follows:

<u>School</u>	<u>Wing/Location</u>	<u>Fixture</u>	<u>Number</u>
MPES	Basement	Sink	1
MPES	D/Library – behind circulation desk	Sink	1
MPES	D/Common Area	Sink	1
MPES	O/Conference RM	Sink	1
MPES	E-12/ Faculty Bath RM	Sink	1
MPES	E/Boys Bath RN	Center Sink	1
MPES	E/Girls Bath RM	all Sinks	4
MPES	E-5 Art RM-Storage-Bath RM	Sink	1

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