

ASHLAND PUBLIC SCHOOL

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Inspiring Learning for Life

DATE: July 1, 2018
TO: Students, Parent/Guardians of Students, Teachers, Staff and Employee Organizations
FROM: Ashland School District
RE: AHERA Notification

Uncontrolled asbestos contamination in buildings can be a significant environmental and public health problem. Both the public and private sectors have been dealing with the asbestos issue for many years. In 1986, Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) primarily to require school districts to identify asbestos-containing materials (ACM) in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a regulatory program which enforces the AHERA.

In compliance with the AHERA regulations, we had our school facilities inspected by an EPA accredited building inspector. During the inspection, samples were taken of building materials suspected of containing asbestos. The results of the inspection and laboratory analysis of the samples confirmed the presence of ACM in portions of the school facilities. **It is important to note that these materials are in a form and condition that does not pose an imminent health threat to students, faculty or employees.**

With confirmation of the presence of ACM, an Asbestos Management Plan was developed for our schools by an EPA accredited management planner. The Management Plan includes the inspection and physical assessment reports, the training program for our custodial and maintenance personnel, the plans and procedures to be followed to minimize disturbance of the asbestos-containing materials, and a program for regular surveillance of the ACM. Every three years, a re-inspection by an accredited inspector must be conducted on all friable and non-friable known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) to determine whether the condition of the ACBM has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. This re-inspection occurred in August 2015, with the most recent inspection occurring in the spring of 2018.

During the 2016-17 school year, periodic surveillance inspections occurred every 6 months to check the condition of the remaining asbestos and to determine if any action is needed. During the 2015-16 school year, Asbestos-containing building materials (ACBM) were removed from Walker Elementary: Pipe insulation was taken off at Walker heater room. Ashland High School: Experiment cabinet removed in science 4, 9x9 tile removed around experiment cabinet science 4 and Roof vents removed from old snack shack before demolition. The Ashland School District did not have any scheduled asbestos abatement projects for the period of September 1, 2016 - August 31, 2017. However, there may be asbestos related activity that will occur in the course of maintaining the buildings.

For further details on the locations of the remaining ACBM or on the asbestos activities, you are welcome to review a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan in our facilities department during regular office hours. David Sommer is our designated Asbestos Program Coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him at (541) 482-1626.