



South-Western City School District

BUCKEYE WOODS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

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September 14, 2017

Dear Buckeye Woods Families:

We would like to take this opportunity to review and follow up on the information sent home to you on August 29, 2017.

We engaged the services of Lawhon and Associates, Inc., a third party environmental and engineering firm with indoor air quality expertise, to conduct an air quality inspection at Buckeye Woods Elementary School. This was initiated as the result of reports of high humidity, a musty odor, and visible discoloration.

After following and completing all of the recommendations of Lawhon & Associates, tests showed that the air quality in our building is within industry standards and the ranges our staff and students could encounter is no more than what they would encounter outdoors in Central Ohio. It was also found that the ventilation system supplies an adequate amount of fresh air to control odors and effectively dilute any contaminants that could be released into the air in the building.

We have gone above and beyond the Lawhon recommendations to: replace the filter media for the units servicing the spaces with elevated airborne mold concentrations; remove particulate accumulation from supply air diffusers and return air vents; install MERV 8 filter media over supply air diffusers; and clean horizontal surfaces in the space using a detergent solution. At our request, Franklin County Public Health also completed a review and inspection of the facility on August 30 to ensure that our procedures and actions followed best practice, as well as to ask for any additional recommendations. We have completed the additional recommendations from Franklin County Public Health.

In addition, we engaged Heapy Engineering, a company specializing in heating and air conditioning systems design, to evaluate the current system and ensure that the system is functioning as designed and within specifications. Heapy found the system to be operating properly and within specifications. They made three recommendations, which they believe will enhance the effectiveness of the current system. These recommendations focus on settings/controls for the system as it exists in its current form. We are in the process of making these adjustments. Heapy also shared an additional item for consideration - the installation of extra dampers to better regulate fresh air from the outside. We intend to explore and perhaps pilot this strategy before making any decision about building-wide implementation.

The health and safety of our students and staff members is very important to us. We recognize that individuals have differing levels of tolerance when it comes to air quality. Those individuals with severe allergies or asthma are much more sensitive to allergen particles in the air. This can have an effect on that individual's well-being.

Copies of the Lawhon, Board of Health, and Heapy reports are available on our building Web site at bwes.swcsd.us. If you have any questions or would like a tour of the building, please call our office at (614) 801-8025.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Kauffeld
Principal
Buckeye Woods Elementary School