

## SJLES Indoor Environmental Quality

**August 18, 2016**

Dear SJLES Families,

It is hard to believe that the end of the summer is almost here! We have been hard at work getting everything ready for the first day of school and are excited to get the school year started.

I want to share an update with you about our school building. As part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the school system, Howard County Government hired an independent contractor to conduct an assessment of St. John's Lane Elementary School's air quality in June. In early August, the report was shared on the county government's website. Supplemental to that report, the independent contractor has shared in writing with the school system that "the types and concentrations of airborne mold found in and outside of the schools are typical for public schools in similar geographic regions of the United States for the time of the year the assessment occurred. These types and concentrations of airborne mold spores do not normally pose a health risk." In addition, "Overall, the observations made during the assessments indicate that the HCPSS and maintenance staff at each school is doing a good job of controlling indoor moisture and mold growth, resulting in the protection of health of students and staff."

The contractor has also provided a list of recommendations for our school. Those recommendations are:

- Additional collection of moisture readings in portable 171 and classroom 91.
- If these readings identify elevated moisture levels then walls and/or ceilings should be opened up to visually inspect and determine if hidden mold growth exists.
- Visual inspection of portable 171 and classroom 91 to determine if mold growth is present in normally inaccessible areas.
- Replace stained or water-damaged ceiling tiles.

Our building services staff has these recommendations and will be implementing all of them. I will send an additional communication after the work has been completed. If you would like to read the entire list of recommendations and supplemental information provided by the contractor, they can be found on our school's website under About – Indoor Environmental Quality.

I want to assure you that our building and our portables are safe for students and staff. We are looking forward to seeing our students on August 26 for our Open House and on August 29 for the first day of school. I will continue to communicate with you and provide updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

Vicky Sarro

Principal