



PALMYRA BOARD OF EDUCATION
PALMYRA, N.J. 08065

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools

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William R. Blatchley
*Business Administrator/
Board Secretary*

May 25, 2016

Dear Charles Street School Families,

Over the past few weeks an unpleasant odor has been present within the foyer, main office, and 4th grade classrooms at Charles Street School. The intensity of this odor has, at times, required administration to move students out of the classrooms. In our efforts to locate the source of this odor and despite extensive inspections of the classrooms, above ceilings tiles, roof, building perimeter, HVAC systems, and crawlspace there are no visible signs of a cause. As a precaution, the district utilized its contract with RAMM Environmental to conduct indoor air quality testing and laboratory analysis. These tests were performed on Monday, May 23, 2016 with formal evaluation of the reports being conducted today, May 25, 2016.

The indoor air quality testing results indicated that nothing harmful to students and staff is present at Charles Street School. However, the results do indicate that two of the classrooms have allergen related spore concentrations that exceed outdoor levels. I have been advised by RAMM Environmental that these types of spores are associated with trees, decaying leaves, grasses, and wet environments typically found outside. Spores are found in our everyday environment and are considered allergenic in nature. Remediation is ongoing and involves ventilation and treatment of non-porous surfaces with fungicidal solvent.

Presently, the learning environment at Charles Street School, as it relates to grades 3 and 4, is primarily affected by the unpleasant odor and increased sensitivity to allergens. Students in these grades may be temporarily moved to other rooms in Charles Street School for the remainder of the school year (fifteen school days remain). Our custodial team will continue to ventilate and sanitize the environment with approved solvents.

I anticipate that full remediation will occur during the summer when students and staff are not present in the building. Unfortunately, professional remediation will involve the temporary closure of the building and is anticipated to last approximately five days.

The safety of students and staff is our highest priority, and the district will continue to take the necessary steps to assure their well-being. I recognize that such disruptions to the learning environment can be stressful for students and staff alike. District administration, counselors, and teachers are here to assist and answer questions. Your patience and understanding during this period of transition is greatly appreciated. Please do not hesitate to contact Mr. Pease, Mrs. Geiser, or me with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Brian J. McBride
Superintendent of Schools