



Mars Area School District

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Sept. 25, 2018

Dear Mars Area Parent(s)/Guardian(s),

This message is a follow up to Mars Area School District's communication regarding air quality testing and additional measures taken at Mars Area Elementary School as part of the District's investigation into a "foul, musty" odor reported at the school.

District personnel previously found and removed wet insulation from an air duct in the interior penthouse areas of the building's roof. And, Accredited Environmental Technologies Inc. was brought in to test the air quality at Mars Area Elementary School. (The test results are posted on the District's website, www.marsk12.org.)

In addition, the District brought in an exterminator to investigate whether bats, which were found at Mars Area Elementary School last school year, had returned. No bats or bat droppings were found either inside the school or in the interior penthouse areas of the building's roof. The exterminator did find evidence of a bat roosting in an area located on the outside of the building. That area was sealed to prevent the bat from returning.

Over the weekend (**Sept. 21-22**), the District's maintenance staff opened several wall panels in the penthouse and other areas to examine the insulation as well as to see if any bat guano was present. No evidence of wet insulation and/or bats was found. At the direction of Accredited Environmental Technologies Inc. and the manufacturer of the building's HVAC system, District staff removed the remainder of the ductwork insulation and duct tape with the units turned off.

As of today (**Tuesday, Sept. 25**), there are no signs of the odor in the building. However, as a precaution, the District is scheduling a follow-up air quality test at Mars Area Elementary School and has requested that the air quality in all of the District's school buildings be tested as well. The results of the additional air quality tests will be posted on the District's website, www.marsk12.org, as they become available.

Thank you.

Dr. Wesley Shipley
Superintendent