

# MARION CENTER AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT

## *Office of the Superintendent*

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September 13, 2018

Dear Parents and Families of the Marion Center Area School District,

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation with the cancelation of our elementary schools. The purpose of this letter is to provide you with an update on the situation, current action, and timeline at W.A. McCreery Elementary. We also have continued testing in our other buildings and have found no concerns with Rayne or the Jr./Sr. High School.

On the afternoon of Friday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, it was discovered that our high humidity levels within the W.A. McCreery Elementary building had led to an issue with Penicillium and Aspergillus mold. The mold tested above normal limits on air quality tests within some classrooms and was visually observed on porous materials in many classrooms. Penicillium and Aspergillus mold is the green/grey colored mold found in damp conditions. It is not the “black mold” that is considered toxic. However, different people have different levels of sensitivity to the same conditions and could have a reaction to the presence of any type of mold. Typical reactions to Penicillium and Aspergillus mold include allergy or common cold symptoms.

Currently, we are continuing through the cleaning and air purification process which is planned to continue through Saturday. At the conclusion of this process, air quality testing will be completed again to ensure that the building is safe for students and staff to return. **Unfortunately, we cannot give families a definite start date because it will be dependent upon the results of our air quality tests. At this point, the earliest that students will be able to return is on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>.** Due to the extent of the cleaning process, teachers will need a day in their classrooms to get everything set up for students to return. We will plan to update our elementary school families by the evening of Sunday, September 16<sup>th</sup> with a decision about school for the following week.

When we determine the date of return for students, we will hold a **parent meeting at 6:00 on the evening before students return**. For example, **IF** results indicate that school can resume on Tuesday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, we will hold a brief meeting on Monday evening to review the most recent air quality testing results and also provide an opportunity for parents to visit their child’s classroom.

In order for teachers to prepare, **Open House at both elementary buildings will be rescheduled for a later date**. That date will be communicated to families once a student return date is established.

We understand the inconvenience that this has caused for our elementary families. Please understand that we are holding the safety of our staff and students as our number one priority. We will not open school until air quality tests reveal that we no longer have a reason for concern. We will continue to update families on our current situation and changes to the school calendar as decisions are made. Again, we thank you for your patience, cooperation, and understanding through this process.

Sincerely,

*Clint Weimer*

Clint Weimer  
Superintendent of Schools