



Freehold Township Schools

Neal Dickstein, Superintendent of Schools
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*"...preparing all students to be
responsible citizens and life
long learners."*

October 31, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians of Children at Catena School:

The District received the final report for the additional mercury vapor testing performed by our environmental consultant on October 15, 2018. This report and original one from September 21 have been posted on the District's homepage, www.freeholdtp.k12.nj.us. As indicated in my previous message, the recent test results showed a significant reduction in the mercury vapors emitted from the gym floor. The results are now below the thresholds established by various States and agencies. We attribute this result to maintaining a temperature of no higher than 72 degrees in the gymnasium as per our consultant's advice. Both reports indicate Mercury is known to volatilize at room temperatures above 77 degrees and may fluctuate based on temperatures within the space.

Despite having this new information the gymnasium remains closed to students and staff. On November 6 our environmental consultant will take core samples of the concrete sub-floor. This information is necessary to develop a remediation plan with the consultant and our architect. Once this information has been gathered it will be presented to the Board of Education to make a decision as to our final course of action. Until that time gym classes will be held outside, weather permitting, or in alternate spaces in the building. While inconvenient we continue to prioritize the safety of our students and staff.

I am working collaboratively with the Freehold Area Health Department to schedule a date for a parent meeting to be held in late November. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Neal Dickstein
Superintendent of Schools