

St. George

Community Consolidated School District No. 258

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August 19, 2018

Dear Parents/Guardians,

St. George School is dedicated to the education of our students, strong partnerships with parents, and the health and safety of all of our students, staff, and teachers. We are committed to clearly communicating with all stakeholders about safety issues when they arise.

This letter is to inform you that on Thursday, August 16, 2018, St. George Elementary School Administration responded promptly to a teacher's concerns about climate conditions within her classroom which is located in the south mobile unit. The classroom was to be occupied by Mrs. MacGilvray's 3rd Grade Class. It was discovered that the HVAC system which serviced that classroom was malfunctioning and therefore, was providing minimal ventilation with outside air. Power to that HVAC system and the classroom itself needed to be turned off in order to fix the issue. As a result, Mrs. MacGilvray's 3rd Grade Class was temporarily relocated to the District Board Conference Room prior to the start of the Back to School Open House Night for their safety and comfort until the HVAC system could be repaired. Items contained in Mrs. MacGilvray's classroom were cleaned and disinfected according to guidelines provided by Midwest Environmental Consulting Services.

Upon further inspection of the vents in Mrs. MacGilvray's classroom, it was determined that some type of substance was present within the vents. At this point, the St. George School Administration called in Midwest Environmental Consulting Services to conduct visual and air quality tests on both classrooms in the south mobile unit (MacGilvray/Rottmann Classrooms). These tests occurred on Thursday. Mold was discovered within the duct work inside south mobile unit which was scheduled to be Mrs. MacGilvray's classroom, which had the malfunctioning HVAC system.

The other classroom in the south mobile unit, occupied by Mrs. Rottmann's 3rd Grade Class, has a separate fully operational HVAC system. Mrs. Rottmann's classroom passed the visual and air quality tests conducted by the Industrial Hygienist from Midwest Environmental Consulting Services. The duct work for each classroom is completely separate.

As an extra measure of safety, visual inspections of the ductwork in the north mobile unit were conducted this weekend and revealed the presence of a substance in the ductwork contained in Mrs. Harrington's classroom and the adjoining restrooms. Additional air quality inspections will be conducted by an Industrial Hygienist from Midwest Environmental Consulting Services on Monday. Out of an abundance of caution, Mrs. Harrington's 5th Grade Class and Mrs. Spencer's 5th Grade Class which currently occupy the north mobile unit will temporarily be relocated until the air quality inspections confirm there are no issues within the north mobile unit.

The Kankakee County Health Department was contacted and confirmed that the appropriate actions have been taken by the District. The I-KAN Regional Office of Education was also contacted about the situation.

It is anticipated that the HVAC repairs and mold remediation in Mrs. MacGilvray's 3rd Grade Classroom could take anywhere from approximately a few days up to several weeks to complete. The District is working with Midwest Environmental Consulting Services to secure mold remediation services from a licensed mold remediation professional company. If mold remediation is necessary in the north mobile unit, the District will inform everyone as soon as we have that information.

Beginning Monday, August 20, 2018, Mrs. MacGilvray's Class will remain in their temporary location within the District Board Conference Room. Mrs. Spencer's Class has been relocated to the Speech, Social Worker, and Reading Classrooms (with the divider walls removed) and Mrs. Harrington's Class has been relocated to the Band/Music Room. Band has been moved to the St. George Catholic Church Parish Hall next door to the school. Music will be held in the students' homeroom classrooms. The Reading Teacher, Speech Pathologist, and Social Worker will operate out of the St. George Catholic Church's Father Querbes Youth Ministry Center also located next door to the school.

As mentioned before, visual inspections and air test results from Midwest Environmental Consulting Services confirm that Mrs. Rottmann's 3rd Grade Classroom is unaffected by any of the HVAC/mold issues. As a result, her class will remain in their current location. The door between the 3rd Grade classrooms has been sealed. Mrs. Rottmann's classroom will continuously be monitored to ensure that conditions within her classroom remain safe.

Visual inspections were conducted on the District Office mobile unit this weekend and no issues were found. Air quality tests will be conducted by Midwest Environmental Consulting Services on the District Office mobile unit on Monday as well.

The health and safety of our students, staff, and teachers remain our highest priority. We will be posting links to the air quality test results on the main page of the District's website as soon as they are available. This is all of the information we have at this time. We will provide additional information as soon as possible. If you have any questions, please contact the District Office directly. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding as we manage this unexpected situation.

Sincerely,



Helen M. Boehrsen
Superintendent of Schools