



VICKSBURG COMMUNITY SCHOOLS

ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY INVESTIGATION UPDATE

June 10, 2019

Dear Sunset Lake Elementary School Parents and Staff,

Included with this letter is a notice from the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH), which is a non-enforcement agency under the Center for Disease Control (CDC). We are pleased to get this assistance, which was requested by the teachers at Sunset Lake and will work closely with these health professionals. The NIOSH team from the CDC includes an industrial hygienist and a nurse epidemiologist.

We also want to make you aware that representatives from the Michigan Education Association provided a second environmental expert to investigate the air quality at Sunset Lake Elementary School. Wonder Makers Environmental visited the school on May 23, 2019, to review test results to date, as well as to meet with staff, administration, and the district's environmental consultant. Michael Pinto, a representative from Wonder Makers, has recommended additional steps be taken to address the air quality concerns. At this time, the district intends to work closely with the team from NIOSH to determine the best course of action moving forward.

We have also reached out to our community health care providers, experts in environmental safety and others who can assist us in reviewing our current protocols and finding ways to improve and communicate environmental safety in our schools. All historical and current air-quality tests for Vicksburg Community Schools have come back negative for harmful levels of toxicity.

VCS has never had an internal air-quality test show unsafe air quality at the building. We want to emphasize that the air quality has not been found to be unhealthy and assure our community and staff that Vicksburg Community Schools will do anything possible to provide a safe learning environment. To that end, the district is committed to ruling out any potentially unsafe conditions or, if identified, to addressing them immediately.

The concern with environmental safety and desire to provide a safe environment for students and staff at all times has created an opportunity for next steps in this area. Vicksburg Community Schools is in the process of creating an environmental safety committee to include employees, parents and community members to study our current practices, share information with the community and make suggestions to the Board of Trustees regarding environmental safety.

A new ENVIRONMENTAL SAFETY section was added to the VCS website to include reports, communication documents and information about the school district's continued steps to address this area. The website can be found at vicksburgcommunityschools.org.

Sincerely,

Keevin O'Neill

Superintendent of Schools

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:

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The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) is part of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). CDC/NIOSH is the federal agency that evaluates work-related injury and illness and makes recommendations to ensure safe and healthy work conditions.

NIOSH Health Hazard Evaluation (HHE) Information Sheet **Sunset Lake Elementary School**

Why is NIOSH contacting Sunset Lake Elementary School employees?

The employees at the Sunset Lake Elementary School have asked NIOSH to evaluate indoor environmental quality and a perceived excess of reproductive issues, strokes, and migraines. NIOSH evaluates workplaces through the Health Hazard Evaluation Program. Information about this program is located at <https://www.cdc.gov/niosh/hhe/>

What will NIOSH do?

We will visit the Sunset Lake Elementary School to understand the layout and operations of the school. We will observe work practices and speak with employees and supervisors in each work area. We will interview employees about their health concerns.

When will NIOSH be at the Sunset Lake Elementary School?

Because school is out of session for the summer, we plan to visit the Sunset Lake Elementary School in the coming school year (Fall 2019).

If I participate, what would it involve?

We may ask you questions about the work that you do and any health and safety concerns you might have. *Participation is voluntary.*

How will my privacy be protected?

We will protect your personal information under the Privacy Act of 1974 and the Freedom of Information Act. We will not share your personal information with management. Only results on a group level will appear in our reports; no individual will be identified.

Who should I contact if I have more questions?

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LT Laura Reynolds Office: 513-841-4174, email: lwy3@cdc.gov