

TO: PARENTS, GUARDIANS, STAFF MEMBERS AND EMPLOYEES

FROM: JAMES ROLLO, BUSINESS ADMINISTRATOR/BOARD SECRETARY

DATE: JULY 1, 2020

SUBJECT: **ANNUAL AHERA NOTIFICATION**

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard.

As required by the federal AHERA law, every three years, the Morris County Vocational School District (MCVSD) has conducted a reinspection and every 6-months, a walkthrough to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last reinspection, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and appropriate response actions recommended.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. MCVSD developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

It is the intention of MCVSD to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the school's asbestos management plan in the Business Office of the district during regular business hours.

Please contact the Business Office at 973-627-4600, ext. 219 to schedule an appointment.