



Dear Families of the MRH Community,

Efforts to eliminate lead in school drinking water received a huge boost in August when the State of Missouri approved \$27 million dollars for schools to test and remediate water sources.

The new law, which went into effect Aug. 28, *requires schools to test their drinking water* and follow recommendations to remediate water sources that test over 5 parts per billion.

MRH began discussions in June, prior to the law going into effect to have all our water sources tested. The information is an important update regarding the recent water quality testing conducted in our school district. While our experts have been very pleased with the low percentage of contaminated sources, MRH strives for a count of zero. We understand the significance of ensuring the safety and well-being of our students, and I want to assure you that we are taking immediate and proactive measures to address any concerns.

### **Highlights of Water Quality Testing Results:**

#### **Early Childhood Center:**

There were zero reported concerns of lead in the water at our Early Childhood Center.

#### **Elementary School:**

There was one reported incident of over 5 parts per billion in a faucet that is not regularly used and not considered a drinking source. This replacement has already been ordered and will be installed immediately. The water to this faucet has been shut off and will remain so until successful remediation and testing is performed.

#### **Middle School/ High School:**

Our vendor identified 10 incidents out of 145 water sources with levels of over 5 parts per billion of lead. While this is well below the average reported by other schools, we recognize the importance of addressing this promptly. Of these 10, six were handwashing sinks that will be replaced, three were in a kitchen area that have not been used but will still be replaced, and one was in a classroom that was not used for drinking water. The water to this faucet has been shut off and will remain so until successful remediation and testing is performed.

### **Concerns and Remediation Efforts:**

#### Construction Impact

Due to ongoing construction, several sources were not accessible for testing. Before these sources are used, they will be thoroughly tested to ensure they meet safety standards.



**Remediation:**

While we could simply add state mandated signage indicating non-potable water, we believe in taking proactive measures. All affected areas have already been marked as non-potable, and fixtures are ordered for replacement based on the recommendations of water testing professionals.

**Timely Response:**

We received the test results on Tuesday and promptly convened a meeting with our plumbing vendor within 24 hours to target and address deficiencies.

**Next Steps:**

We are actively working on targeted remediation to ensure that all water sources within our schools meet or exceed safety standards. We will provide updates as we progress, and your feedback and questions are welcome.

The safety and well-being of our students remain our top priority. We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work to resolve these issues. If you have any concerns or questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Michael Dittrich, Director of Operations at [michael.dittrich@mrhschools.net](mailto:michael.dittrich@mrhschools.net)

Thank you for your continued support.