

Environmental Health Update: A Commitment to Safety and Transparency

January 2024

Dear Maple Tree Montessori Academy Families,

We are pleased to provide an update on our ongoing commitment to maintaining a safe and healthy environment for our students and staff. In collaboration with the Livingston County Department of Environmental Health and EGLE (Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy), we ensure rigorous and regular testing of our air, water, and soil. Here are some key highlights from our latest environmental assessments:

Water Quality Assurance:

Our water undergoes comprehensive testing for a wide range of elements including Heavy Metals, Arsenic, Lead, Copper, Bacteria, PFAS ("forever chemicals"), VOCs (Volatile Organic Compounds), SOCs (Synthetic Organic Compounds), and more. We are pleased to report that all results have consistently exceeded safety standards. Notably, Arsenic — commonly naturally occurring in our county's wells — has continually been fully remediated since opening in 2003. We previously used individual tap filtration and now have advanced water filtration through an amazing whole-building system funded by an EGLE grant. We will continue with our ongoing rigorous monitoring.

Soil and Vapor Integrity:

We have also had soil and vapor testing done a couple of times at several locations on our property and at several depths into our soil. Results were good and no remediation has ever been required. This fall we participated with EGLE in extensive testing. We had new surface soil testing done on the playground, drilled holes into the floor of our building to test for any vapor seepage occurring below the slab of the building, and 30 day air quality testing was done inside our building. The testing is for the same items listed above and more. We passed everything with flying colors and I am happy to say there are no areas of concern! Air, soil, and water have all been given a clean bill of health! We also utilize several layers of air filtration throughout our building through our new HVAC and stand alone devices.

Community and Environmental Advocacy:

My participation with EGLE has also raised state level awareness of the abandoned property to our north. Although this has had no effect on our water, soil, or our air, I am assured that this will now be addressed and appropriate measures will be taken to clean up the site. Again, all of the testing has established that any effects from that property in soil, water, and air (including underground vapors) are and have always been flowing away from our building and beyond Old US 23.

For many years, we have tried to raise concerns with Brighton Township regarding the neglect and unsafe status of that property. Finally, I am assured by the State that it will be addressed properly and safely.

This continuing clean bill of health and promise of resolution and improvement is such good news, I wanted to share it with you!

Thank you for your continued trust and support.

Warm regards,

Sue