

EDWARD V. WALTON SCHOOL
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Dr. Adriana B. Coppola
Principal

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Dear Walton Families and Guardians,

I wanted to update you on some work that the District has undertaken on two classrooms at Walton School. Following testing of Wings C & D, which is the 2005 addition to the rear of The Walton School, it was determined that rooms 21 (Perrone) & 24 (Reilly) had slightly higher levels of mold than was found outdoors. While this may sound scary to some parents -- due to several misconceptions regarding mold -- at no time was the health of any student in danger.

Molds are part of the natural environment and are found almost anywhere. Therefore, most people are exposed to some level of mold on a daily basis. According to the EPA, molds have the potential to cause allergic or asthmatic reactions in certain sensitive individuals. As a result, those that experience an allergic reaction may experience sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash. Symptoms other than the allergic and irritant types are not commonly reported as a result of inhaling mold. More information about mold and health can be found on the EPA's website: <https://www.epa.gov/mold/mold-and-health>. In addition, if you have any concerns regarding the health of your son or daughter, you may wish to contact your doctor.

As expected, commonly present levels of mold were found throughout Wings C & D. This was entirely expected since it is impossible to eliminate all mold and mold spores inside. The best that can be done is to control mold growth beyond those commonly present in the environment, by controlling moisture. Therefore, inside almost every building there is some level of mold present. Nonetheless, levels of common fungi that were higher than the immediate outside environment were found only in Room 21 and Room 24. However, no black mold was detected in any of the samples collected. Instead, the mold found in the two classrooms is commonly found everywhere and generally poses little health problems. The environmental specialist has advised the District, that the elevated levels posed little health risk to the students in these two classrooms.

Notwithstanding, the District employed a remediation company to eliminate the elevated levels of mold in these two classrooms. The rooms were tested on January 12, 2018. The tests revealed that the common fungi in both of these classrooms are now significantly lower than outdoor levels. Therefore, the remediation work was a success.

It is anticipated that parents in other classrooms may also have concerns. However, unlike many homes and commercial buildings that use a central ventilation system that circulates air throughout the building, Walton uses independent units. Therefore, air is only circulated within the same classroom, and air in one room is not transported to another classroom. In addition, the air quality was tested in each room in Wings C & D and all mold levels were lower than the air outside.

I hope this answers any questions or concerns you may have. While I understand that this information may seem concerning, the reality is that no student's health was or is placed in any danger. However, if you still have concerns, please feel free to contact my office. In addition, if you have any concerns regarding the health of your son or daughter, you should of course contact your child's doctor.

Thank you.