



November 28, 2023

Dear Paw Paw Families,

Last Wednesday, November 22, the district conducted additional water testing at OPM as recommended by the East Lansing - Meridian Water and Sewer Authority (ELMWSA). As a result of that testing we are providing an update to the OPM community so you are aware of preliminary results and actions taken to remediate any issues.

Fifteen additional water samples were strategically selected and tested across the building based on recommendations from ELMWSA, including all hallway drinking fountains and the room that previously tested above 5 parts per billion (ppb). The room that previously tested above 5 ppb reported results at undetectable levels, as did all hallway drinking fountains. The expanded testing revealed two additional classrooms with results above 5 ppb.

[The test results for Room 121 \(Mrs. Kelly's room\) was at 38 parts per billion.](#)

As was shared prior, the water service line for Central Montessori is copper. Many buildings built prior to 1987 have lead solder that was used to join the copper plumbing pipes in the building. ELMWSA believes the recent construction in the building caused some lead solder joining our copper pipes to be released into the water supply, resulting in two lead samples being above 5 ppb.

The Environmental Resources Group (ERG) recommended the following actions:

- Recleaning or replacement of faucet aerators (district will replace on 11/29)
- Flushing of the system
- Schedule follow-up testing*

*Follow up testing will include all rooms that tested above 5 ppb and any room with water that has not yet been tested.

In addition to those actions, the district has implemented the following the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes, and Energy (EGLE) recommendations until retesting is completed:

- Shut off problem fixtures
- Share the test results
- Post "not for drinking" signs at problem fixtures
- Continue to provide filtered water throughout the building at bottle-filling stations. If your child is in this classroom and does not have a refillable water bottle, please let Principal Kelly know and we will provide one.

The Okemos Public Schools will continue to take all necessary steps to maintain a safe and healthy environment for everyone in our school community and are committed to providing a learning environment that prioritizes the well-being of our students and staff. If you have health-related questions, please contact the health team at 517-706-5008.

John J. Hood
Superintendent

Kelly Sundeen
OPM Principal

Mark Fargo
Director of Operations

Kelly Sundeen, Principal
kelly.sundeen@okemosk12.net
4406 North Okemos Road, Okemos, Michigan 48864
Phone: 517-706-5401

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