

Patricia H. Gaston  
Director of Curriculum,  
Instruction & Assessment  
802-223-9796

Jessica B. Little  
Director of Support Services  
802-223-6341

# MONTPELIER PUBLIC SCHOOLS

58 Barre Street  
Montpelier, VT 05602

FAX 802-223-9795  
WEB PAGE: [mpsvt.org](http://mpsvt.org)

Stephen Metcalf  
Superintendent of Schools  
802-223-9796

Cynthia E. Rossi  
Business Manager  
802-223-9798

Donald R. Lorinovich  
Director of Facilities & Recreation  
802-223-5141

August 6, 2008

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As you are probably aware, a flooring contractor removing tile at the Main Street Middle School failed to use proper procedures. A health inspector from the state was visiting another project at the school, noticed the violations, and shut down the project. Because the tile contains asbestos, there is a need to thoroughly clean and test the building before we can reoccupy it.

I want to assure you that our first priority is safety. We are cooperating fully with the Department of Health in this matter and will take all necessary precautions to make sure that our students, employees, and the public are safe.

The Department of Health has required us to hire a Certified Industrial Hygienist (CIH) to test the ventilation system before we can proceed with cleanup. Even though the ventilation system was not on during the project, this testing will make sure no asbestos infiltrated the system. We have hired Maureen Alvarez of URS Corporation in Rutland, VT. She is visiting the school this morning and will be submitting a plan to do the testing. We anticipate the testing being performed on Thursday morning. Should the results of the testing be positive, we will develop a remediation plan that meets state approval.

As soon as the samples are taken from the ventilation system, and the state approves our plan (already submitted), we can begin the general cleanup. This cleanup and subsequent testing should take about twelve to fourteen calendar days. In anticipation of that, we will be working with the flooring company on a schedule to complete the project. As soon as we have information about whether we can open school on time, we will notify you.

I have enclosed an information sheet from the DOH on asbestos. Please be aware that disease associated with the type of asbestos in floor tiles is associated with heavy doses, daily, over a long period time. Thus, while we need to make sure that the building is asbestos-free, we believe that this incident represents minimal risk for anyone who was in the building during the project.

We fully expect our cleanup to be successful. However, in the unlikely event that tests show asbestos remains after the cleanup, we will be unable to use the building for several weeks. We are making contingency plans to cope with this possibility. Initial discussions have been held with the Vermont College of Fine Arts. We will continue to plan for that possibility and will provide notice to you if that is necessary. In the meantime, please check the school website - <http://www.mpsvt.org/msms> - for continuing updates. We will also be providing updates to the newspaper. Finally, if you have questions that aren't answered on the website, do not hesitate to contact me at 223-9796.

Sincerely,

Stephen Metcalf

Cc: Main Street Middle School Faculty  
School Board