July 31, 2018

Parents and Community Members,

I wanted to make you aware of a situation at Lakeland Middle Preparatory School. On Thursday, July 26th, our custodial staff observed what appeared to be mold on areas of the carpet in our band room and instrument practice room. Upon receiving this notice, we immediately contacted a professional mold inspection and testing company to perform tests on the areas and the space in general, which took place on Saturday. We received their report on Sunday evening which confirmed that there was mold present in areas of the carpet and some other porous surfaces in those particular rooms. The report also stated that there was an elevated level of humidity in the rooms that was not present in other areas of the school, and likely allowed the mold to grow.

We then contracted with a mold remediation company and have made a plan to aggressively and completely clear the affected area of mold. This work will begin tomorrow morning and will include removing the carpet, some shelving, and any other areas of concern in conjunction with air scrubbing and treating of all surfaces in the affected rooms.

In the meantime, we have worked with our school design and engineering team and our mechanical subcontractor to determine what mechanical settings have allowed the humidity to exceed specifications in those rooms this summer. We believe we have isolated and corrected the mechanical issue, and will monitor and confirm that the corrections will resolve the problem before new carpet and other materials are reinstalled. We have no evidence or reason to believe that these conditions were present when school was in session or that they exist in any other areas of the school. Obviously, we will not allow any staff or students to occupy the affected areas until we are 100% sure that the spaces are completely free and clear of mold.

Nothing is more important than the health and safety of our students and staff, and we felt it was important to make you aware of these concerns and our plans to address them. We appreciate your support as we strive to make decisions that are in the best interest of our students and staff.

Thank you,

Dr. Ted Horrell
Superintendent
Lakeland School System