



August 2019

2019-2020 Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) Notification

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, Upper Darby School District has conducted a reinspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last reinspection conducted on all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected and generally found to be in good condition. ACBM that was damaged and in need of repair/removal was identified and will be addressed by the district.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Upper Darby School District developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

During the past year, asbestos containing building materials have been removed, encapsulated, or

enclosed in the following buildings: Aronimink Elementary School, Bywood Elementary School, Garrettford Elementary School, Highland Park Elementary School, Hillcrest Elementary School, Primos Elementary School, Stonehurst Hills Elementary School, Westbrook Park Elementary School, Kindergarten Center, Beverly Hills Middle School, Drexel Hill Middle School, Upper Darby High School, and the Gulf Building.

It is the intention of Upper Darby School District to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in school district administrative office or administrative office of the school during regular business hours. All inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to the Upper Darby School District Maintenance Manager, Timothy Leaf, at (610) 352-7111.