

# THE TINTON FALLS SCHOOL DISTRICT



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Lisa Goldey  
Superintendent of Schools

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Business Administrator/Board Secretary

September 14, 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians of SRS and TFMS students,

I want to thank you for your cooperation after Friday evening's communication regarding visible surface mold at the Swimming River School and the Tinton Falls Middle School. This situation has, unfortunately, unfolded within a week. As a parent, I understand how it is difficult to get information so late. I can empathize with your frustration. However, I want to explain the details of the events and, more importantly, the steps we are taking to get our students in school as quickly as possible.

Starting in June, all three of our schools were under construction. In late August, our classrooms' furniture was reset by our custodial staff and our moving company for classrooms that were completely redone. No mold was seen on any furniture at that time. A few days after teaching staff returned to school, mold was noticed on desks, tables, and chairs in certain parts of the Swimming River School and the Tinton Falls Middle School. The surface mold appeared on furniture only in certain areas, not the entire building. Once this was brought to our attention, we immediately took action to get an air quality assessment of these spaces by AHERA consultants, our air quality specialists. Through the air quality assessment, AHERA recognized high levels of humidity in certain areas, making it an ideal environment for mold to grow. AHERA clarified that this mold is a common surface mold. It is **not** a toxic black mold. After the assessment, our Aramark custodial staff cleaned all the surfaces in which the mold was seen. Upon completing the cleaning, AHERA came back out to the school to conduct another air quality test of the affected areas.

On Friday afternoon, visible mold had reappeared on some surfaces and some new surfaces within our classroom spaces. After speaking with AHERA, we were advised to hire a professional environmental cleaning company. Over the past week, including this weekend, we worked with our HVAC professionals to eliminate the classrooms' high humidity levels. This morning we met with our engineer and our HVAC electronic controls professionals. Thankfully, I can say, as of today, the humidity levels have been lowered in both buildings. The cleaning company will start their cleaning this afternoon in the Tinton Falls Middle School and move to Swimming River School. Upon completing the cleaning, AHERA consultants will return to complete the air quality assessment to ensure each classroom is safe for students and staff to occupy. We will make the details of the report available to staff and parents.

In speaking with our professionals, we are hopeful that everything is completed by Friday, September 18th. This would allow students to be in the buildings by September 21st. I know disappointment is surrounding the delay in returning to in-person instruction. I am just as disappointed. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me through email or phone. I will get back to you as soon as possible. **I will reach out to you again by Wednesday afternoon with additional updates.**

Sincerely,

Lisa Goldey  
Superintendent of Schools