



David N. Gentile, Ed.D.
Superintendent of Schools
(856) 751-8446, ext. 6122

329 Route 73
Voorhees, NJ 08043

E.T. Hamilton School
Kresson School
Osage School
Signal Hill School
Voorhees Middle School

September 2, 2020

Dear Voorhees Township School Community,

There has been a great deal of interest around the district's HVAC systems. HVAC (heating, ventilation, and air conditioning) is the technology of indoor environmental comfort. Its goal is to provide thermal comfort and acceptable indoor air quality (IAQ). Every summer, the district assesses the various systems in our facilities to ensure they are achieving that goal. To determine the indoor air quality, the district employs a certified professional consultant who performs independent assessments in each of our school facilities. Previously, the district's voluntary indoor air quality assessments went largely unnoticed by most other than our Director of Buildings and Grounds and select staff members. This summer has been unique in that there has been greater attention placed on indoor air quality as we planned for our district opening.

The [IAQ reports](#) are available on the district website for anyone interested in reviewing them. The most recent assessment report for the district is attached below. Typically, the assessments are scheduled just prior to the opening of schools to provide us with timely information on the conditions of our indoor air quality before kicking off the school year. Following the testing, our maintenance staff work to mitigate any identified items for improvement. You will see that in the most recent round of IAQ testing, the air quality conditions in the Voorhees Township School District were observed to be normal and acceptable. The school buildings were clean and well maintained.

There were several minor recommendations for cleaning and maintenance that our staff has already started to address. All of the recommended remedial actions outlined in the IAQ reports will be completed swiftly. The assessments outline that, despite the recommendations for improvement, our HVAC systems are providing thermal comfort and acceptable indoor air quality. We do not simply want to be acceptable but rather exceptional. Our mindset is focused on continuous improvement. Therefore, if any of our equipment is not functioning properly our staff will continue to work until it is resolved.

In the recent IAQ report, there were recommendations for routine cleaning and maintenance in each school. That remediation will all be finished this week. Also outlined in the report, one unit in B-9 of the Middle School had a leak and the carpeting became wet. The leak has been fixed and the carpet will be removed and replaced with new hard surface flooring this Friday, September 4th. One additional recommendation that was repeated consistently for all schools throughout the report is to maintain thermostat settings in the range of 74-79 degrees. To address this recommendation, staff will be directed to maintain all classroom thermostats accordingly. To ensure that we exceed acceptable air quality we will be repeating the indoor air quality testing again this Fall.

We have an amazing staff in the Voorhees Township School District. I want to recognize all of the unsung members of our staff who work tirelessly behind the scenes to support our district's mission. Our

custodial and maintenance staff members are absolutely amazing! They continue to work to finalize the building preparations in order for our opening.

PPE & Additional Equipment

I am proud to announce that we have received all of the PPE ordered for the start of the 2020-2021 school year. Please refer to the online [summer maintenance report](#) to review the full order of PPE and other health & safety purchases. The district is awaiting the delivery of UV sanitation equipment that will be installed in classrooms for nighttime cleaning. The vendor committed to providing mobile UV sanitation equipment that will be used to sanitize until the full order arrives. We are also awaiting the delivery of the thermographic cameras that will be used for temperature screening. To provide a short-term substitute until they arrive, the district has provided each school with multiple touchless thermometers that will be used each morning for temperature screenings. Upon receipt, the final equipment to be installed is rooftop HVAC ionizers that will set Voorhees Township Schools far above the minimum requirements of ventilation outlined in the [NJ Department of Education Road Back](#). This additional equipment, although not required, will be installed to further enhance our HVAC systems.

Today our fantastic staff returned for their first day of the new school year! It was awesome to see all of our dedicated staff return to finalize preparations for our students' first day. Their dedication and strength during these challenging times serve as a beacon of hope and inspiration for our students. Together, we will *engage, inspire, and innovate!*

Sincerely,

Dr. David Gentile