February 7, 2020

Dear Francis Hopkinson Elementary Families:

This letter provides an update on environmental work at Hopkinson Elementary School and its impact on school operations. As you know, results of extensive air testing conducted throughout the school earlier this week have all come back as “non-detect” or well below City of Philadelphia standards, indicating the school is cleared for re-occupancy. As we prepare for scheduled lead paint stabilization work throughout the school, we believe it is best for school students and staff to remain at their temporary relocation sites until critical pre-work is completed over the next four to six weeks.

As part of the initial inspection of the school several weeks ago, the Office of Environmental Safety and Services (OEMS) identified several areas with asbestos-containing materials in need of repair. These are not imminent hazards and do not pose an immediate threat to students or staff. However, we have decided to have our Maintenance Department remove the damaged asbestos throughout the entire building, including above ceiling tiles. Once the removal work and testing is completed, we would then re-open the school and begin the lead-paint project as planned.

Students and staff will continue to report to their temporary relocation sites. Students in grades K through 2 will remain at the Little School House and modular on the Hopkinson campus; students in grades 3 through 5, including the AS Class, will be transported to Roberto Clemente Middle School (122 W. Erie Avenue); and students in grades 6 through 8 will be transported to Grover Washington Middle School (201 E. Olney Avenue). **We ask that students in grades 3 through 8 arrive at Hopkinson at 8:05 a.m. to begin check-in and boarding buses. Pick-up time at Hopkinson is at 3:00 p.m.**

Thank you for your continued support as we work to ensure a safe school environment at Hopkinson. If you have any questions or comments about the environmental work or the impact on students, please call Hopkinson’s main office at 215-400-3970 from 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.