



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

October 26, 2020

Dear Southwark School Community,

This letter is to provide an update around environmental safety work taking place at Southwark School. In accordance with the Environmental Protection Agency's Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) requiring all public school districts to regularly inspect school buildings for asbestos-containing building material, a 6-Month AHERA inspection was conducted at your school on October 21. During this inspection, damaged pipe insulation/debris -- was discovered in the basement pipe chase.

Abatement work is now being performed in the area by licensed asbestos abatement contractors and monitored by independent asbestos project inspectors. No students or staff are permitted in the space until the repair work is completed and the appropriate testing is done to determine if the area is suitable for re-occupancy. As the School District of Philadelphia continues to prepare for a transition to hybrid learning and a return to school buildings, we will keep you updated about this work.

The health and well-being of our students and staff remains our top priority and we are committed to ensuring that all buildings are safe environments for instruction and learning. To learn more about asbestos and what the District is doing to improve environmental safety, please visit our website at www.philasd.org/healthyschools. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please email environmental@philasd.org.

Sincerely,

William R. Hite, Jr. Ed.D.

