



Axtell Community School

Rob Gregory, Superintendent
Jeffrey C. Schwartz, Principal

September 5, 2019

Dear Parents;

I'm sure many of you are wanting to hear about our unfortunate odor situation in the lower elementary hallway that caused the unexpected vacation from school for the Kindergarten through 2nd grade. It has been a saga and a difficult one to solve for sure.

Staff reported to me about an odor coming from one of our kindergarten rooms. We have taken numerous steps in trying to detect the cause of the odor such as plumbers, plumbers with specialized camera equipment, inspections of the roof, the tunnels under the building, and the main HVAC system that heats and cools our entire building. When our HVAC specialists came to investigate, we noticed a mildew on some of the air handlers that are located in the closets of the elementary classrooms. This mildew was caused by stagnant water from leaking pipes in the past and condensation due to the high humidity. It was at this time with student safety in mind I decided to dismiss the lower elementary students to further clean and investigate what was causing our odor. I hired a company to come in and do an air quality pre-test and post-test to help me make further decisions in regards to student safety. We then hired a professional cleaning service to clean the air handlers and assumed that was the cause of the odor, that was not the case.

I can assure you that our air quality is SAFE and always has been in the elementary, but the odor still remains. Through countless hours of work, the cleaning professionals believe that the odor is coming from a dead critter hidden in the walls of the kindergarten and first grade room area. We will continue to work with the situation until it is resolved, and be assured our quality education will remain at a high level. Once again, the air quality is safe even though it may not smell that way at times. I do apologize for any inconvenience that this unfortunate situation may have caused you. If you need further details, please feel free to call either Mr. Schwartz or myself at school.

Sincerely,

Rob Gregory

Superintendent