

September 1, 2016

Dear CCSD Families,

Welcome to another exciting year at Chatham Central Schools. I have a few items I wanted to share with you as the new school year gets underway.

First, I wanted to update you on the progress of our water testing and remediation. As I shared with you at the end of last school year, the Chatham Central School District conducted water testing throughout our buildings and identified several areas where lead levels were at or above the EPA standard, and a small number of areas that showed copper levels at or above the EPA standard.

This summer, we began the first phase of our remediation project by replacing affected water fixtures that are used for food preparation or student drinking water, and retesting them. I am pleased to report that we have received the test results from all the faucets we replaced in our food prep areas (kitchens and Family and Consumer Science) and they now test well within normal ranges. This means that we can be comfortable using these water sources when school opens. This also provides us evidence that the contamination was caused by individual fixtures and that replacing these fixtures is the appropriate remediation. We are still awaiting the test results for the drinking water fixtures that we replaced. In the meantime, these fixtures will remain shut off. While we await these test results, we will provide bottled water in classrooms that don't have convenient access to drinking water.

After we receive the full results of this second round of testing, we will determine how to best address the remainder of the remediation work. We expect that this will only involve replacing additional fixtures; however there still is a possibility that more extensive work may be necessary.

All of the water safety precautions that our schools put in place last school year, such as shutting off some fixtures, flushing others, providing bottled water, and/or posting signage will remain in effect until we have tests confirming that each issue has been resolved.

A summary of our initial water testing results from April along with our most recent remediation and testing results is posted to our website www.chathamcentralschools.com under our [Water Testing](#) link. We will continue to update this document as our remediation progresses and subsequent test results become available. On this webpage you can also find all the letters and other information we have provided to you to date.

Second, I would like you to be aware that the Village of Chatham is currently undertaking a construction project along Woodbridge Avenue that includes narrowing and repaving the street, as well as the replacement of the sidewalk across the road from Chatham Middle School. The village has assured us that the roadwork portion of the project will be completed prior to the beginning of school, so we do not anticipate any parking and traffic issues for our first day. However, the sidewalk across from the middle school, from Kinderhook Street to the crosswalk at the entrance to the elementary/high school campus, is currently closed. This sidewalk will be completed sometime later this fall. It is important that parents please do not drop students off along the closed portion of sidewalk or allow your child to walk

in the road itself. The sidewalk along the middle school side as well as the crosswalk to the entrance of MED and CHS are fully open.

I look forward to seeing many familiar faces when we begin classes again on September 7th. Here's to a happy, healthy, and safe start to the 2016-17 school year!

Cheryl A. Nuciforo

Cheryl A. Nuciforo, Ed.D.

Superintendent