

Put this on our schools web site

July 2015

Dear Parents and Employees:

Asbestos is an issue we have been dealing with for many years. The Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986 (referred to as AHERA) was enacted by Congress to determine the extent of and develop solutions to any problems schools may have with asbestos.

To give you some background, asbestos has been used as a building material for years. It is a naturally occurring mineral that is mined primarily in Canada, South Africa, and Russia. Asbestos properties made it an ideal building material for insulating, sound absorption, decorative plasters, fireproofing and a variety of miscellaneous uses. There have been over 3,000 different products made using asbestos materials. The EPA (Environmental Protection Agency) began action to limit uses of asbestos products in 1973 and most uses of asbestos products as building materials were banned in 1978.

Beginning in 1982 we have had our facility inspected and sampled for asbestos. Due to changing federal regulations, in 1987-88 we had more detailed inspections and samples of potential hazardous asbestos items tested and every third year we have had a re-inspection. Pella Schools had their annual check from Chris Wimmer, our Asbestos Program Manager. We began implementing an asbestos management plan in 1982, but have been using a more detailed management plan since 1988. The Management Planner has developed an asbestos management plan for our facilities which includes: this notification letter, education and training our employees, and a set of plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of the asbestos containing materials, and plans for regular surveillance of the asbestos-containing materials.

A copy of the asbestos management plan is available for your inspection in our administrative offices in each facility. Ryan Doschadis, Building and Grounds Director, is our new Asbestos Program Manager and all inquiries regarding the plan should be directed to him.

We are intent on not only complying with, but also exceeding federal, state and local regulations in this area. We plan on taking whatever steps are necessary to insure our students and employees have a healthy, safe environment in which to learn and work. We have a periodic surveillance conducted every six months and will inform you of any other asbestos activity that takes place.

Sincerely,

Greg Ebeling
Superintendent
Pella Community Schools

