marion p. thomas
CHARTER SCHOOL

www.mptcs.org

*"It takes a whole village to raise a child"*

**Elementary School**
Kindergarten – 5th Grade
370 S. 7th St.
Newark, NJ 07103
PH: 973.621.0060, ext. 1
FAX: 973. 621.0061

**SELECT Elementary Academy**
2nd - 5th Grade
88-108 Shipman St.
Newark, NJ 07102
PH: 973.621.0060, ext. 2
FAX: 973.643.4982

**Middle School**
6th - 8th Grade
308 S. 9th St.
Newark, NJ 07103
PH: 973.621.0060, ext. 3
FAX: 973.792.0066

**High School of Culinary & Performing Arts**
9th – 12th Grade
125 Sussex Ave.
Newark, NJ 07103
PH: 973.621.0060, ext. 4
FAX: 973.624.4018

**District Office Mailing Address**
88-108 Shipman St.
Newark, NJ 07102
PH: 973.621.0060, ext. 4008
FAX: 862.240.1212

May 1, 2017

Dear Select Elementary Academy Community,

Our school system is committed to protecting student, teacher, and staff health. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations, Marion P. Thomas Charter School tested our schools' drinking water for lead.

In accordance with the NJ Department of Education regulations, Marion P. Thomas Charter School will implement immediate remedial measures for any drinking water outlet with a result greater than the Lead Action Level of 15 µg/l (parts per billion [PPB]). This includes turning off the outlet, unless it is determined the location must remain on for non-drinking purposes. In these cases, a "DO NOT DRINK – SAFE FOR HANDWASHING ONLY" sign will be posted.

Results of our Testing

Following guidance provided by the EPA, we completed a limited plumbing profile for each of the buildings within the Marion P. Thomas Charter School District. Through this effort, we identified and tested all drinking water and food preparation outlets. Of the thirteen (13) samples collected from Marion P. Thomas Charter School (Select Elementary Academy), all but three (3) tested below the Lead Action Level.

The table below identifies the drinking water outlets that tested above the 15 PPB for lead, the actual lead level, and what temporary remedial action Marion P. Thomas Charter School has taken to reduce the levels of lead at these locations.

| Sample Location | First Draw Result in µg/l (ppb) | Remedial Action |
|---|---|---|
| Third Floor Science Room Middle Sink. | 18.3 | Immediately took fixture out of service |
| Third Floor Science Room Sink. Closest to Door. | 85.9 | Immediately took fixture out of service |
| Third Floor Science Room Sink. Closest to Window. | 155 | Immediately took fixture out of service |

*The 3 faucets listed above are located in the science lab and they are not drinking faucets. Signage has been posted on each faucet, stating that the water from the fixture is not suitable for drinking. Once results from flush samples are tested, and if results shows the fixture is the cause, we will remove and replace the fixtures and retest the water.*

Health Effects of Lead

High levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years of age. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At *very* high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily as a result of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning *may* contain fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and are also available on our website at **www.mptcs.org**. For more information about water quality in our schools, contact Milton Tannis at the Marion P. Thomas Charter School Facilities Department, 973-621-0060 x2001.

For more information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at **www.epa.gov/lead**, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

If you are concerned about lead exposure at this facility or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children to determine levels of lead in their blood.

Sincerely,

Damon White
Director of Operations