

Dear North Salem Central School District Community:

As we wrap up our second day of school, I want to take a moment to celebrate what I have observed to be a successful opening to the 2026-2027 school year. Opening up a new school year is a tremendous undertaking, often what I refer to as the collision of details, and these first two days have highlighted the detailed planning, preparation, and commitment of the entire North Salem Central School District community necessary to make these first two days so successful. Students have arrived ready to learn, have reconnected with friends and faculty and staff, and have engaged in the important work that a new school year brings. Our faculty and staff have worked to thoughtfully create a welcoming and supportive learning environment designed to meet the needs of all students.

I am especially grateful to our families for helping make these first days so positive. Your partnership, patience, and support have contributed greatly to our smooth start.

While the first days of school always bring a few adjustments and opportunities to refine our routines, we can be proud of the strong foundation that has been established. I look forward to all that we will accomplish together throughout the year. Thank you to all for making this opening such a success.

Continuing on the topic of success, I am also writing to share that the PQ water improvement project has been completed, and the water system has been cleared by the Westchester County Department of Health for use. As a result, PQ is no longer operating under a Bottled Water Notice, and public water has been restored for normal use and consumption within the building.

As outlined in our previous communication, the District conducted secondary lead testing of all bottle-fill stations that required testing prior to being returned to service. The District also completed remediation of the water outlet intended for cooking purposes, PQES 059, and included this outlet in the follow-up testing.

We are pleased to report that 13 of the 14 outlets have tested below the lead action level.

One outlet, PQES 008, an older-style water fountain located near the 5th-grade wing, returned a result of 0.0176 mg/L (17.6 ppb), which exceeds the New York State lead action level of 5 parts per billion (ppb).

This fountain had already been shut off and out of service for many years, which is most likely the reason it exceeded the allowable limit. We have eliminated and removed the older fountain and replaced it with a new filtered bottle-fill station. This new bottle-fill station will be tested and cleared before being returned to service.

The District will continue to follow all Westchester County and New York State Department of Health and Department of Education requirements, including remediation, retesting, and public notification. All of the updated lab reports, remedial action plans

and non-applicable outlets will be posted to the school website under the Facilities Department page within 6 weeks.

The health and safety of our students, faculty and staff, and community remains our top priority.

If you have any questions or would like additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Thank you for your ongoing engagement and support. Enjoy your weekend!

With Appreciation,

Dr. Adam VanDerStuyf
Superintendent of Schools