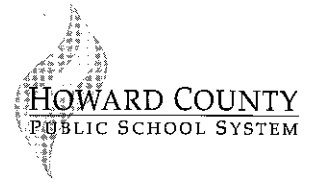


# TALBOTT SPRINGS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

9550 Basket Ring Road • Columbia, MD 21045 • 410-313-6915 • (F) 410-313-6921 • [www.hcpss.org/tses](http://www.hcpss.org/tses)



Dear Talbott Springs Families,

With all of the heat outside, it is hard to believe that the end of the summer is almost here! Our custodial, office and teaching staff have been hard at work getting everything ready for the first day of school. We are very excited about getting the school year started.

I want to share an update with you about our school building. As part of a Memorandum of Understanding with the school system, Howard County Government hired an independent contractor to conduct an assessment of the air quality in several schools including Talbott Springs Elementary School in June. In early August, the report was shared on the county government's website. Supplemental to that report, the independent contractor has shared in writing with the school system that "the types and concentrations of airborne mold found in and outside of the schools are typical for public schools in similar geographic regions of the United States for the time of the year the assessment occurred. These types and concentrations of airborne mold spores do not normally pose a health risk." In addition, "Overall, the observations made during the assessments indicate that the HCPSS and maintenance staff at each school is doing a good job of controlling indoor moisture and mold growth, resulting in the protection of health of students and staff."

The contractor has also provided a list of recommendations for our school. Those recommendations are:

- Replace stained or water-damaged ceiling tiles.
- Replace the pipe insulation on chiller lines identified as supporting mold growth.

HCPSS Building Services staff has these recommendations and have already and/or will be implementing all of them. I will send an additional communication after the work has been completed. If you would like to read the entire list of recommendations and supplemental information provided by the contractor, they can be found on our school's website under About – Indoor Environmental Quality.

I want to assure you that our building and our portables are safe for students and staff. We are looking forward to seeing our students on Friday August 26, 2016 from 2:00-3:00 for our Open House and on Monday August 29, 2016 at 8:25 for the first day of school! I will continue to communicate with you and provide updates as they become available.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy Thompson".

Nancy Thompson  
Principal