

Dear Northwest School of the Arts families and faculty,

We are writing to advise you of the results of water testing recently conducted at our school. In all, 58 water-consumption points were tested. One water fountain in a workroom was found to have lead in the water that exceeded the state standards and it has been taken out of service.

Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools began voluntary testing of all sources of water intended for drinking, food preparation or cooking in 58 schools last year. Earlier this fall, the district began voluntary testing of an additional 35 sites, screening for lead and copper in the water. This was a proactive program of testing done because we put a top priority on student and staff safety and health.

Our school was among those 35 chosen for testing. CMS partnered with an environmental consulting firm, AECOM, to conduct the water testing. AECOM conducted its testing on Nov. 14, working before and after school hours to avoid disruption to the academic day.

This proactive testing ensures that our students and staff have access to clean, safe drinking water and water for other uses, such as cooking. This letter is part of our effort to share all water-testing information with you. The full results of the testing, including the fountains and faucets that were tested and those that were repaired or removed, can be found at the CMS Water Testing Program page on our website (www.cms.k12.nc.us).

Again, we want to emphasize that the issues found by this program of proactive testing have been successfully resolved, ensuring that the water at Northwest School of the Arts is clean and safe.

If you have any additional questions, contact Dan Collins, the district's environmental health and safety manager, at EHS@cms.k12.nc.us or call 980-343-4879.

Thank you for choosing CMS.

Sincerely,

Melody Sears, Principal