

VOORHEESVILLE CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

VOORHEESVILLE, NEW YORK 12186



December 21, 2020

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Dear Parents and Staff,

The administration of the Voorheesville Central School District would like to provide you with notification that radon-in-air testing will be conducted during the week of December 28, 2020. The district has tested for radon in the past and does have mitigation systems in areas that met the requirements to do so. The district is retesting all buildings again to evaluate possible changes to the radon levels and the validity of the current mitigation systems.

School personnel, along with Capital Region BOCES Health-Safety-Risk Management Services, will be conducting the radon testing in accordance with established U.S. Environmental Protection Agency testing protocols. To test for radon in air, small devices containing charcoal will be placed in each of the occupied rooms that are in contact with the ground and ten percent of second and third floor occupied rooms. These devices will be left in place between two and three days. You will be informed of radon test results and interpretations as soon as possible. In the event that high radon levels are found, steps will be taken to correct the problem using methods suggested by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Radon can be a problem in your home as well. Prolonged exposure to radon can contribute to an increased risk of lung cancer. The United States Surgeon General has warned that radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers. Radon is an invisible, odorless and tasteless gas, with no immediate health symptoms, that comes from the breakdown of uranium inside the earth. It can get into any type of building – homes, offices and schools – and build up to high levels. You and your family are more likely to get your greatest exposure at home because that's where you spend most of your time each day. Testing is the only way to know if you and your family are at risk from elevated levels of radon. The New York State Department of Health, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Surgeon General recommend testing all homes for radon. Additional information can be found at

<https://www.health.ny.gov/environmental/radiological/radon/radon.htm> and at https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/2016-12/documents/2016_a_citizens_guide_to_radon.pdf.

Testing results will be shared at the Board of Education facilities committee and at the Board of Education meeting.

Sincerely,

Frank Macri
Superintendent