"If you seek a better school, look about you"

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ANNUAL ASBESTOS NOTIFICATION TO PARENTS, STUDENTS & EMPLOYEES

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Asbestos is a naturally-occurring fibrous mineral which, until about 1980, was commonly used in building construction. Asbestos will not burn, is an excellent insulator, has great tensile strength, is resistant to chemicals, is a nonconductor of electricity, and absorbs sound. Asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually all buildings constructed before late 1970s contained some asbestos material. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. However, asbestos materials can be a concern if they are damaged, deteriorate over time or are otherwise disturbed, as fibers can be released. As ACBM deteriorates over time, or is disturbed by maintenance, renovation, or demolition activities, it may become friable, i.e., it is capable of being reduced to powder by hand pressure. When ACBM becomes friable, asbestos fibers are released into the air. Inhalation of these airborne, microscopic asbestos fibers have been proven to cause such fatal diseases as lung cancer, mesothelioma (cancer of the lining of the lung or abdominal cavity), and asbestosis (scarring of the lung tissues). Uncontrolled asbestos contamination in buildings has been, and remains, a significant environmental and public health issue. In 1986, Congress enacted the *Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHEARA)* to require public and private, secondary and elementary schools to identify ACBM in their school buildings and take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the US Environmental Protection Agency finalized a regulatory program which enforces the *AHERA* mandate. These regulations are incorporated within the *Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule* (40 C.F.R. Part 763, Subpart E).

In compliance with the *Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools Rule*, L'Anse Area Schools District had its school building(s) inspected by an asbestos inspector, accredited by the State of Michigan. During that inspection, areas of suspect ACBM were identified. The type, condition, and location of this ACBM was noted. Samples were taken of some or all of the suspect ACBM. Laboratory analysis of these samples confirmed the presence of absence of ACBM. Suspect ACBM not sampled and analyzed were assumed to contain asbestos. Confirmed and/or assumed ACBM currently remain in certain locations in our school building(s). (See Master Plan).

Upon confirmation of the presence of ACBM, an Asbestos Management Plan was developed for each of the school buildings in the District by an asbestos management planner, accredited by the State of Michigan. *The Asbestos Management Plan(s) include a description of the measures currently being taken to ensure that the ACBM remaining in our school building(s) is maintained in a condition that will <u>not</u> pose a threat to the health of our students and employees*. These Plan(s) describe past response actions taken to abate ACBM, as well as response actions planned for the future. (See Master Plan). Since the enactment of AHERA, L'Anse Area Schools District has taken aggressive steps toward maintaining a healthy environment by adopting an AHERA compliance program. The District completed the initial inspections to identify asbestos containing building material (ACBM) at each of our school buildings utilizing an EPA certified inspector. Additionally, L'Anse Area Schools District has designate **<u>Brandon Marinich</u>** as the District's AHERA "*Designated Person*" to manage and oversee these requirements.

A copy/copies of the Asbestos Management Plan(s) is/are available for your review in the L'Anse Area Schools Central Office during regular office hours.