



# Rock Brook School

*Individualized Programs*  
*Personal Success*

Monday, April 24, 2017

**RE: Lead Sampling in Water in School Facilities in NJ**

Dear Rock Brook School Community,

Every school in NJ is mandated by the Department of Education to conduct drinking water sampling for lead by July 1, 2107. Following the instructions in a technical guidance plan developed by the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, a plumbing profile was completed and access to drinking water was sampled throughout the building. **All of the 14 samples taken were well below the 15 ug/L for lead except one. The two drinking fountains, for example, were 1.1 and < 1.0 ug/L respectively. The one faucet that exceed the 15 ug/L limit was the staff bathroom with an 84.9 ug/L.**

**The current remedial action for the staff bathroom faucet is to post signage that indicates "Do Not Drink – Safe for Handwashing Only" Additional water sampling will take place to retest the faucet and we will follow the other procedures in place when remedial action is required.**

Lead is unusual among drinking water contaminants in that it seldom occurs naturally in water supplies like groundwater, rivers and lakes. Lead enters drinking water primarily because of the corrosion, or wearing away, of materials containing lead in the water distribution system and in building plumbing. These materials include lead-based solder used to join copper pipe, brass, and chrome-plated brass faucets. In 1986, Congress banned the use of lead solder containing greater than 0.2% lead, and restricted the lead content of faucets, pipes and other plumbing materials. However, even the lead in plumbing materials meeting these new requirements is subject to corrosion. When water stands in lead pipes or plumbing systems containing lead for several hours or more, the lead may dissolve into the drinking water. This means the first water drawn from the tap in the morning may contain high levels of lead. For your information the main part of our building was built in 1998 and the addition in 2003.

We all are aware that high levels of lead in drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants and children under 6 years of age. Lead in drinking water, although rarely the sole cause of lead poisoning can significantly increase a person's total lead exposure, particularly the exposure of children under the age of 6. The EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or would like to see the testing results. They will be on our website as well. I will keep you informed on the status of the staff bathroom. For more information about this topic visit the EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/lead](http://www.epa.gov/lead), call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider.

Sincerely,

Mary Caterson, Director



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