65 Highland Avenue
PO Box 339
Peapack, NJ 07977
908-234-0011,ext. 1230
www.matheny.org
bkent@matheny.org

Dear Matheny Community:

As you know Matheny is committed to protecting the health of those we serve, our staff and other stakeholders. To protect our community and be in compliance with the Department of Education regulations as well as New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection (NJDEP), Matheny began testing our school's drinking water for lead.

In 2018, in accordance with the Department of Education regulations, Matheny identified several drinking water outlets above the regulated lead limit. As such, Matheny implemented remedial measures for all drinking water outlets with a result greater than the United States Department of Environmental Protection (USDEP) and the NJDEP defined action level of 15 ug/1 (parts per billion [ppb]). This included turning off the outlet, providing an alternate water source, install point of use filtration systems and leaving the outlet off until re-sampling shows results below the action level.

As part of the initial remediation efforts we were required to continue testing of our water system. This most recent testing cycle (samples taken 4/21/2021) showed that no samples analyzed exceeded the action limit of 15 ug/l.

Results of our Testing

Of the 10 samples taken, all tested below the lead action level established by the US Environmental Protection Agency for lead in drinking water (15 ug/l [ppb]).

Health Effects of Lead

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. It can cause damage to the brain and kidneys, and can interfere with the production of red blood cells that carry oxygen to all parts of your body. Exposure to high levels of lead during pregnancy contributes to low birth weight and developmental delays in infants. In young children, lead exposure can lower IQ levels, affect hearing, reduce attention span, and hurt school performance. At very high levels, lead can even cause brain damage. Adults with kidney problems and high blood pressure can be affected by low levels of lead more than healthy adults.

How Lead Enters our Water

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 as a result 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

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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 fairly high levels of lead.

Lead in Drinking Water

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. EPA estimates that drinking water can make up 20% or more of a person's total exposure to lead.

For More Information

A copy of the full test results is available in our central office for inspection by the public, including students, teachers, other school personnel, and parents, and can be viewed between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and will be also available on our website at www.Matheny.org. For more information about water quality in our school, contact George Doumar, 908-234-0011 ext. 1210.

Steps you can take to Reduce Exposure to Lead in Drinking Water

New brass faucets, fittings, and valves, including those advertised as “lead-free,” may contribute to lead in drinking water. The law currently allows end-use brass fixtures, such as faucets, with up to 0.25% lead to be labeled as “lead free.” Consumers should be aware of this when choosing fixtures and take appropriate precautions.

For further information on reducing lead exposure around your home and the health effects of lead, visit EPA's Web site at www.epa.gov/lead, call the National Lead Information Center at 800-424-LEAD, or contact your health care provider. Information can also be obtained from http://www.state.nj.us/health/ceohs/lead, or http://www.state.nj.us/health/childhoodlead

If you are concerned about lead exposure at Matheny or in your home, you may want to ask your health care providers about testing children or yourself to determine levels of lead in the blood. Individual employees concerned about the findings may wish to reach out to our employee health nurse at ext. 1224. Parents may wish also to reach out the School Nurse at 908-234-0011 extension 1217. Once again, we are committed to the safety of our community and will update the community as necessary.

Sincerely,

William M. Kent

Bill Kent, President/CEO