

Flemington-Raritan Regional School District
Dr. Kari McGann
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June 7, 2023

Dear Parents, Staff, Faculty, and Community Members,

According to Weather Works, the Eastern Canadian wildfires continue to have a significant impact in our area as we have seen thick smoke plume over the region here during the midday and afternoon. This has led to very poor air quality and greatly reduced visibility. Satellite images show that to the northeast, there is some slow improvement to come for the evening.

While visibility may get somewhat better, air quality will still be at hazardous levels. For tomorrow, a slight adjustment in pattern and wind means the worst of the smoke will set up well to the west and out of the area. It still is going to be hazy with poor air quality, just not to the extent of what we saw today. The good news is that on Friday, it's becoming more likely that we will see significant improvement in both visibility and air quality. At this time, there are no changes to our arrival or dismissal at school. All schools will continue on a normal schedule for Thursday, June 8, 2023.

To ensure our students' air quality is safe, the District implemented the precautions noted in [yesterday evening's letter](#). Twenty-three (23) air scrubbers were deployed in our schools in areas where the smell of smoke was detected. The air scrubbers were moved throughout rooms and hallways in all buildings in the District.

To continue to support indoor air quality, the District is adding additional precautions, some of which were taken today in reaction to the heavy smoke in our community:

- Turning off HVAC air units where dampers cannot be closed, such as inside all gymnasiums. (This reduces the amount of outside air pulled into the space);
- Relocating some students to other classrooms where the scent of smoke is not as strong;
- Opening of some internal doors to provide circulation;
- Facilities team members deployed to all buildings to assist in HVAC mechanics and indoor air quality precautions;
- Placement of large, indoor electric fans in rooms to move air through the room;
- Cancellation of clubs that meet outdoors if they can not be accommodated indoors; and
- Ordered additional air filters to replace existing filters that may have become dirtier quicker than normal.

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Real-time air quality index ratings are available by visiting www.airnow.gov (in partnership with the U.S. EPA), along with health recommendations. The site also provides forecasted air quality reports.

Current air quality in Flemington:



Additional information about air quality is available from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency at the link below:

<https://www.epa.gov/wildfire-smoke-course/wildfire-smoke-and-your-patients-health-air-quality-index>

As always, the district prioritizes our students, staff, and faculty members' health and well-being.

Sincerely,

Dr. Kari McGann
Superintendent of Schools