



October 26, 2016

Dear George F. Johnson School Community:

The Union-Endicott School District is committed to protecting our student, teacher, and staff health. This correspondence is to inform you that we have conducted the required steps needed to comply with a bill recently passed by the New York State Legislature, asking all school districts to test drinking water outlets for lead contamination. If lead is found at any water outlet at levels above 15 parts per billion (ppb), the legislation requires taking action to reduce the lead.

**Why Test School Drinking Water for Lead?** Exposure to lead through drinking water can cause health problems. Lead is most dangerous for pregnant women, infants, and children under 6 years old. 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. **Is GFJ's Drinking Water Safe?** Yes, our schools' water is safe. Union-Endicott tested our drinking water for lead. Of the 152 water samples we tested, only 3 samples showed lead levels above the 15 ppb mark. Here is a summary of our findings:

- The first outlet with high lead levels was inside the custodian's closet, room 133. A sign was immediately placed on the sink indicating that the water from the faucet was not potable, and should not be used for drinking. Since this area is in a location where students cannot access the water, it does not need further remediation.
- The second outlet with high lead levels was a sink located in the library office, room 151. A sign was immediately placed on the sink indicating that the water from the faucet was not potable, and should not be used for drinking. Since this area is in a location where students cannot access the water, it does not need further remediation.
- The third outlet with high lead levels was in the art/music storage room, room 248. A sign was immediately placed on the sink indicating that the water from the faucet was not potable, and should not be used for drinking. Since this area is in a location where students cannot access the water, it does not need further remediation.

**How Can I Learn More?** You can see a copy of our water testing results at the Union-Endicott District Office which is open Monday to Friday from (8:00 am to 4:30 pm). Additional information can be found on our website at [www.uek12.org](http://www.uek12.org). For more information about water quality in our schools, please contact Gerald Abbey, Director of Facilities, at 607-757-2196. For information about water quality and sampling for lead at home, contact your local water supplier or Broome County Health Department at 607-778-2847.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Suzanne E. McLeod'.

Dr. Suzanne McLeod  
Superintendent of Schools