



"Intelligence without ambition is a bird without wings." C. A. Danielson

From the Office of
Denise L. Clemons
Superintendent of Schools

September 21, 2016

Dear Families and Staff of Gardner Public Schools:

On September 21, 2016, all schools, including Central Office, in the Gardner Public School District completed the process of testing for lead and copper in drinking fountains and water fixtures through the MA Department of Environmental Protection Drinking Water Program. We were pleased to be accepted into this program.

Even though our water is tested through United Water on a consistent basis, this program allowed us an additional opportunity to address any possible concerns and reduce potential exposure to lead and copper in drinking water at our schools. Lead is not believed to be in our water source; but, some plumbing and fixtures in our buildings may contain lead. Thus, this may result in an increase in the lead content in tap water. Exposure to lead is a concern because lead is a toxic metal that has a range of adverse health effects. The MA Action Level for lead in drinking water is 0.015 milligrams per liter (also known as parts per million).

As soon as our results are received, you will be notified. **A Reminder from the Department of Environmental Protection:** The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter into tap water. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill), you can call your local water department for information; or, check the Consumer Confidence Report that is distributed annually by the public water supplier.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Robert Detweiler, Business Manager - (phone: 978-632-1000 or email: detweilerr@gardnerk12.org).

Sincerely,

Ms. Clemons,
Superintendent

"The mission of the Gardner Public School System is to prepare, in collaboration with parents, students who are ready upon graduation for the challenges of college and career without remediation. This will be done in a safe, caring, just and equitable environment. Our Core Values are Academic Excellence, Creativity, Respect and Responsibility."