

Tests show Guilford school still free of mold

GUILFORD — Recent air-quality tests at Elisabeth C. Adams Middle School show that mold problems plaguing the school a few years ago haven't returned, Superintendent of Schools Thomas Forcella told the Board of Education this week. (New Haven Register)

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GUILFORD — Recent air-quality tests at Elisabeth C. Adams Middle School show that mold problems plaguing the school a few years ago haven't returned, Superintendent of Schools Thomas Forcella told the Board of Education this week.

Forcella discussed a report detailing the tests and said levels of carbon dioxide, carbon monoxide, other gases, temperature and humidity were measured. He said the air quality remains at recommended levels.

Mold spore counts were higher outside the building than inside when Mystic Air Quality Consultants of Groton surveyed the air Sept. 29, according to the report given to school leaders.

The school has been tested every few months since mold was found primarily in the building's basement about three years ago, and all tests have shown improvement, school board Chairman William Bloss said Tuesday. No students or employees reported that they became ill because of the mold, he added.

"We worked very hard to fix the drainage issues and, at least as of today, that situation appears to be very well under control," he said.

Work has been done in stages over the past few summers to fix drains, replace drywall, clean drains discharging into wetlands and improve air handling inside the building to inhibit mold growth, according to Bloss. A drain still needs to be installed in the courtyard.

“Adams is a difficult place because the water table is high. Groundwater is close to the bottom of the building. We have to be very alert to staying on top of drainage issues there,” Bloss said.

Air-quality tests will continue every few months so that if there is a recurrence of mold it can be dealt with before it becomes a substantial problem, Bloss said.

Similar testing has been completed at other district schools and shown no mold problems, he said.

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