

# **\*PARENT/LEGAL GUARDIAN NOTIFICATION\***

## **2016-2017 SCHOOL YEAR**

### **Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA)**

Receiving this report is an indication that your school contains some form or forms of asbestos. The Asbestos Management Plan will describe in detail all the information for your particular school. This plan is located in your school administration office and at the Diocese of Harrisburg, and is available for your review.

### **What is Asbestos?**

Mineral found in rock formations. When separated from rock, it becomes a fluffy fibrous material that has many uses.

### **Types**

Chrysotile (most common), Amosite, Crocidolite, Anthrophyllite, Tremolite and Actinolite

### **How is Asbestos Used?**

Construction Industry: For buildings constructed prior to 1988, about 2/3 of all asbestos produced was used for cement, roofing, plastics, insulation and floor tile.

Automotive Industry: Widely used as friction material in brake and clutch linings – also as undercoating to protect against corrosion.

Textile Industry: Fireproof clothing and staffs' equipment, fire-resistant curtains for theaters and schools.

### **Health Hazards of Asbestos**

If air containing asbestos dust is inhaled, the small sharp fibers may work their way into the lung tissue and remain embedded for life – a constant source of irritation.

Various Factors:

1. Intensity of asbestos dust
2. Individual susceptibility
3. Fiber size and variety
4. Presence of other pollutants (cigarette smoke)

### **Asbestos-Related Disease**

Asbestosis: A disease in which lungs are irritated by inhaled asbestos dust – characterized by fibrotic changes in the lung tissue and scarring in the thickening of the lung wall. Breathing becomes difficult, thus causing a strain on the heart. Usually appears 10-20 years after exposure.

Mesothelioma: A cancer of the chest or abdominal lining, which is rare except in people exposed to asbestos. Usually fatal within one year of the first symptom.

Cancer: Of respiratory system – is much more common in asbestos workers than in the general public. There is also a higher rate of cancer of the digestive system.