



Blue Ridge Community Unit School District #18

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January 30, 2020

Hello, All-

Following is an update on HVAC and Radon issues on the BRIJHS Campus:

Last week we relocated Jr. High students and classes from the Jr. High side of BRIJHS to the Intermediate side. The faculty and staff have a “can do” attitude and have pulled together to make things work for our students. At this time, it appears that this arrangement may be necessary through the end of February, until needed work is done, and radon levels are retested and found to be within acceptable limits.

Radon Update

The *temporary* fix for the radon issue, which involves installation of a fan/exhaust system in the crawl space, is in the process of being installed this week. After it has been in operation for a few days we will spot check radon levels on that side of the building. Air handlers on that side of the building are not functioning properly, so we are not sure that the temporary fix will resolve the issue enough to allow classes to return to their normal locations. Jr. High students will remain on the intermediate side of the building until we are satisfied that the radon is within acceptable limits.

The *permanent* radon solution involves the installation of a barrier and ventilation system in the crawl space of the junior high, and repair or replacement of the air handling units that serve that side of the school. The school board met on Wed., Jan. 29 and designated the radon mitigation as an emergency, allowing us to bypass the full formal bidding process and expedite the installation of the permanent radon mitigation solution. Installation of the system is scheduled to begin Monday, Feb. 17 with projected completion at the end of that week. The contractor will begin site preparations prior to that time.

HVAC Update

We have heat at BRIJHS though the system continues to have problems. We are conducting diagnostic work to identify and correct deficiencies. We are also working with engineers to fix issues that were recently identified with the air handling system on the Jr. High side.

If anyone has questions or concerns, do not hesitate to reach out to us. We greatly appreciate the administration, faculty, staff, and students at BRIJHS for their flexibility throughout this time.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Susan Wilson
Superintendent