



# Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

*Dr. Matthew J. Block*  
Superintendent of Schools  
11 Foxcroft Drive  
Livingston, New Jersey 07039

June 7 , 2023

Dear LPS Community:

The wildfires in Canada are having a significant negative impact on outdoor air quality in our area and beyond. We felt it yesterday, today, and will likely experience continued low air quality tomorrow. Forecasters have said that today will be the worst day, and we should see some improvement tomorrow before the air pattern changes for the better on Friday.

This morning, our schools were clear of haze and smokey smells. Nonetheless, windows were kept closed, and students remained indoors, per the recommendation of our School Physician. At approximately noon today, we began to receive information that some schools were experiencing a smokey smell and that haze was observed inside some classrooms. As soon as those reports were received, our maintenance department adjusted the air conditioning ventilation units to limit the external air coming in through our ventilation systems. Additionally, masks were quickly delivered to each school, and any student who reported discomfort was provided with water and an alternate location in an interior space in the building.

Experts tell us that the best place to be as we go through this latest “once in a lifetime event” is indoors in a ventilated area. We are fortunate to have modern ventilation including air conditioning in all classrooms in our schools, and we have plenty of places for students to access water. We have now delivered masks to each school, which the experts say is the best solution for those who are having adverse effects from the poor air quality.

While the forecasters say today should be the worst day, it appears that conditions similar to today will continue tomorrow, and possibly even into early Friday. As a result, we will maintain indoor activities and keep windows closed through the end of the week. While we are confident that our schools’ indoor air quality is as good as any indoor facility, students and staff are encouraged to wear a mask if they are concerned or are feeling discomfort. We will continue to stay up to date with the latest information. As of now, we fully intend to operate on a regular schedule both Thursday and Friday.

Thank you, as always, for your partnership.

Sincerely,

Matthew J. Block  
Superintendent of Schools