

St. Mary School

To: All Parents

From: Ms. Barbara Schwiebert

Date: January 13, 2017

Re: Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (A.H.E.R.A.)

Although we may not realize it, asbestos is a common material in almost every building in our society. It is a fireproofing material; it is found in floor tiles. Under certain conditions, however, when it is damaged, asbestos can prove to be a concern.

Recently, because of that concern, the Federal Government asked every school in the country to conduct an inspection of all asbestos-containing materials.

The inspection of our school revealed these materials in the basement area, not accessible to students. The Environmental Protection Agency states, "it is important to note that not all friable asbestos containing material need be removed from schools." (e.g. the floor tiles). Once such material has been identified, a program can be implemented to insure that the material is maintained in good condition, and that appropriate precautions are followed when the material is disturbed for any reason.

Nevertheless, in order to insure that no danger would arise in the future from friable asbestos, we arranged to have corrective action undertaken. We are having periodic inspections and all asbestos in the basement has been encapsulated. The Archdiocese has spent over 10 million dollars in the abatement of asbestos since 1983 (long before the current regulations) and will continue with its commitment to provide a safe environment for our students and employees.

