## October 16, 2024

Good morning St. John School families,

Over the summer, Saint John School in conjunction with the Archdiocese of Boston Risk Management Office opted into the MassDEP Expanded Assistance Program for Lead in School and Child Care Drinking Water, which provides free lead testing and technical assistance to schools. We then had the actual water sampling done in early September. During the water sampling some water faucets at St. John School had detections for lead. **First and foremost, all filtered bottle filling stations were tested and are safe to drink from (a nondetectable lead level or levels well below acceptable state recommendations). Again, no issues were found with our drinking water**.

We are taking these results seriously and continuing to safeguard the health of the students, faculty and staff of St. John School. The results indicated that there are a few faucets in the school that are not used for drinking where the best practice is to implement a 30-second flush each morning. A 30-second flush is not required for safe water related to hand washing or cleaning, but we will implement this policy out of an abundance of caution. These locations include the Health Office and the Kitchen. We have also added signs on most faucets in the school that indicate they are not for drinking purposes ("This sink is to be used for hand washing only.").

## What We Are Doing:

-We shut down the single water faucet that had lead test results over 15 ppb – the handicap bathroom faucet. No water will be accessible from this water faucet. We will undertake efforts to determine the cause of the lead exceedance in the handicap bathroom and develop a plan.

-We are implementing 30-second flushes each morning on the Health Office and Kitchen faucets as a precaution.

-Out of an abundance of caution, we have posted "This sink is to be used for hand washing only" signs on most faucets.

-We will develop a sampling plan to conduct future testing at taps/fixtures. -In order to fully safeguard our students and other individuals (including women who are pregnant or nursing), we are working closely and cooperatively with the Archdiocese of Boston's Risk management Office.

-Throughout this process we will keep you informed as to the progress of our efforts. These communications will serve to let you know what has been done and what is being done to safeguard against lead exposure from drinking water at our schools.

A Reminder: The water system at the school is not unlike water systems found in other buildings. Older plumbing systems and fixtures, especially, can contain lead pipes or solder that can allow lead to enter tap water. If you have questions about lead in your home's water supply, and are using a private well, you can have your water tested. If you are receiving water from a public water system (i.e., if you pay a water bill) you can call your local water department for information or check the Consumer Confidence Report sent out by the public water supplier annually.

<u>Click here</u> for a fact sheet on lead in water. It contains links for further information about lead in drinking water for schools and childcare facilities.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Chris