

BETHLEHEM AVTS

BETHLEHEM AREA VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL SCHOOL

3300 Chester Avenue, Bethlehem, PA 18020-2870 • 610-866-8013 • Fax: 610-866-6124

August 9, 2018

Dear Parents, Teachers, Building Occupants, and Employee Organizations:

In the past, asbestos was used extensively in building materials because of its insulating, sound absorbing, and fire retarding capabilities. Virtually any building constructed before the late 1970s contained some asbestos. Intact and undisturbed asbestos materials generally do not pose a health risk. Asbestos materials, however, can become hazardous when, due to damage or deterioration over time, they release fibers. If the fibers are inhaled, they can lead to health problems, such as cancer and asbestosis.

In 1986, Congress passed the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) which requires schools to be inspected to identify any asbestos containing building materials. Suspected asbestos-containing building materials were located, sampled (or assumed) and rated according to condition and potential hazard. Every three years, Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School has conducted a reinspection to determine whether the condition of the known or assumed asbestos containing building materials (ACBM) has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM. At the last reinspection conducted on December 8, 2015, all materials listed in the Management Plan as asbestos containing (or assumed to be asbestos-containing) were inspected undamaged.

The law further requires an asbestos management plan to be in place by July 1989. Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School developed a plan, as required, which has been continually updated. The plan has several ongoing requirements: publish a notification on management plan availability and the status of asbestos activities; educate and train its employees about asbestos and how to deal with it; notify short-term or temporary workers on the locations of the asbestos containing building materials; post warning labels in routine maintenance areas where asbestos was previously identified or assumed; follow set plans and procedures designed to minimize the disturbance of asbestos containing building materials; and survey the condition of these materials every six months to assure that they remain in good condition.

It is the intention of Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School to comply with all federal and state regulations controlling asbestos and to take whatever steps are necessary to ensure students and employees a healthy and safe environment in which to learn and work. You are welcome to review a copy of the asbestos management plan in the office of the Executive Director during regular business hours. Debra Miller, Business Administrator, is our designated asbestos program coordinator, and all inquiries regarding the asbestos plan and asbestos-related issues should be directed to her at 610-866-8013, ext. 105.

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"Providing Opportunities to Build Careers"

The Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, disability or age in its programs or activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. Inquiries may be directed to the Bethlehem Area Vocational-Technical School's Title IX Coordinator or the Section 504 Coordinator at 3300 Chester Ave., Bethlehem, PA 18020.

www.bethlehemavts.org