



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

December 11, 2018

**Message from Superintendent Dr. Ben Drati:  
Malibu update: All environmental testing results are clear**

Dear parents and staff,

The Malibu community has begun the healing process and we are happy that as part of this long process, we have reopened our schools. (Malibu High opens Dec. 12<sup>th</sup>.) Students and staff have reflected the sense of normalcy this has brought their families who value our schools as safe spaces and community centers.

We continue to offer resources to our students, parents and staff as we reopen and we are here to help and support in any way we can. We have provided mental health and wellness services and have had therapy dogs on each campus for the reopening. We have assisted families with forms, donations and nutrition services. We continue to work in partnership with the City of Malibu and local organizations such as the Boys & Girls Club of Malibu. [Resources](#).

We appreciate your patience as we worked hard to have each school professionally cleaned from top to bottom and conducted tests for lead, asbestos and particulates at all four schools, as well as PCBs at Cabrillo and MHS. We are pleased with the results that clearly reflect our spaces are healthy for students and staff. Reports of these test findings are posted on each school website. Click on the green Environmental Reports button on your home page. Here are the direct links to the reports for each school:

[Webster Elementary School](#)

[Point Dume Marine Science School](#)

[Juan Cabrillo Elementary School](#)

[Malibu High School](#)

These reports are more exhaustive than what other school districts have done in terms of testing following a fire event. We did this based on parent and staff feedback we received and we appreciate your patience while additional days were needed to accomplish this. We have previously posted our cleaning protocols that are described in this [Scope of Work](#) document.

Teachers have reported how clean our schools are currently. The deep clean that was conducted following the fire covered every indoor space, along with outdoor areas, like tables and playground equipment. All outdoor surfaces were also power-washed. The recent rain aided in the cleanliness of grassy areas, such as sports fields.



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

Best Management Practices cleaning, established throughout the district several years ago, will be continued at all sites. This practice dictates what is cleaned on a daily, weekly, monthly, quarterly and annual basis. We will continue to monitor the accumulation of dust and particles.

We continue to monitor air quality in Malibu through [www.airnow.gov](http://www.airnow.gov). The City of Malibu has reported that air quality has been Good or Moderate. We have gone a step further and have installed air monitors at all of our school sites in Malibu, allowing us to check in real-time on a daily basis for any changes in air quality specific to each school and adjust activities accordingly. Fourteen monitors have been installed between the four schools. Most of the air monitors have been installed and are in the process of being calibrated. Preliminary results show the air was in the Moderate range on Tuesday.

We will be posting this information on each school website in the form of a document that parents, staff and community members can check anytime. This will help our staff and parents make informed decisions about your student and levels of protections that you see fit for your child, or for children who have medical plans on file. We will have another letter to you with details of this in the next few days.

We have upgraded our Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) filtration in our classrooms, offices and other indoor spaces from Minimum Efficiency Reporting Value (MERV) 4 to MERV 8. The higher the MERV value, the more efficient the filter will be in trapping airborne particles. MERV 8 is the highest level our systems can support. Filters will be monitored and replaced when needed.

We continue to consult with our Facilities District Advisory Committee, Malibu, along with teachers, staff and administrators regarding concerns that may arise as the cleanup continues in our school neighborhoods.

We are committed to being responsive to you as families and staff get back to routines, or establish new ones, following the devastating fire last month.

In order to better manage the various questions that continue to arise, we ask that you submit any comments or questions through our [Let's Talk](#) process, online. Please submit under the Malibu Schools Pathway heading. This will allow us to gather similar and reoccurring questions and better streamline our responses in an orderly and efficient manner for all parties. We will post and email weekly or bi-monthly documents in a Q & A format.

For our families and staff who lost homes, suffered damage or lost employment due to the fire, here is some additional information that may be of interest to you:

[Woolsey Fire: Disaster Recovery Centers](#) information.



SANTA MONICA - MALIBU UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

[Woolsey fire recovery forums](#) set for Dec. 13 in Agoura Hills and Dec. 16 in Malibu.

[Federal disaster unemployment assistance benefits](#) are available to residents affected by the Woolsey Fire, Dec. 14, 2018 is the deadline to apply. Workers, business owners and self-employed people who lost their jobs or businesses, or had their work hours substantially reduced can apply. [En Espanol.](#)

We are pleased with all the testing results conducted by outside vendors and look forward to a productive week-and-a-half before winter break. Learning has resumed and students and staff are anxious to get back on track with this school year.

Thank you.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Ben Drati, Superintendent