



July 22, 2021

**Garland Independent School District**  
Division of Business Operations

Dear Park Crest Family,

**Street Address**

Harris Hill Administration Building  
501 S. Jupiter RD  
Garland, TX  
75042

**Phone**

972-487-3100

**FAX**

972-485-4922

First, let me thank you for your support and understanding as we continue to provide updated information regarding the environmental issues related to the Globe-Union battery manufacturing plant near Park Crest Elementary. Based on the information we currently have, students are not in any danger from contaminants on campus.

In June 2020, Garland ISD was notified by the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) of a potential environmental hazard related to the Globe-Union battery manufacturing plant. That [initial communication](#) from TCEQ noted, “No chemicals of concern were detected at concentrations above their respective TRRP PCLs and no further action is required.” In an abundance of caution, we contracted with Terracon to conduct an independent assessment. That study identified areas of lead contamination that were near the creek banks, outside the school fence line. We added signage to the fence and reinforced the fence to keep students out of the area.

Subsequently, we received this [updated report](#) from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and [this notification](#) we received on Tuesday, July 20, 2021. This most recent communication identifies areas of elevated arsenic in portions of the campus grounds. Please reference the letter above for a color-coded map of this information.

In light of this new information received, and out of an abundance of caution, further safety measures will be completed this weekend - July 24-25. To ensure basketballs do not bounce into the contaminated area, a 10-foot fence will be installed about 100 feet behind the courts. A temporary fence will also be installed for at least 90 days around the campus garden area while we await further instructions from the EPA regarding their next steps in the cleanup process.

The EPA has established a response site that describes the issues and their response actions. This is linked [here](#). There will be a virtual community meeting with the EPA on August 5, 2021 from 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. that will allow you to ask any questions or share any concerns you may have. Virtual meeting link access information can be found [here](#).

We have also requested an in-person meeting at Park Crest Elementary, with the EPA experts to share information from their most recent testing report. We will notify you as soon as this date and time are confirmed.

Again, we want to reiterate that no contaminants have been found in the school building or student play areas. All areas where contamination has been identified have been secured to ensure that students do not enter those areas. Thank you for your continued partnership as we strive to do what is best for our students and employees during these challenging times. We have established a dedicated email for your questions or concerns: [environmental@garlandisd.net](mailto:environmental@garlandisd.net).

Regards,

Paul Gonzalez, Executive Director, Facilities & Maintenance