

Northern Valley

Regional High School District

Jan A. Furman, Ed.D.

Superintendent of Schools



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All Region III, PIE/Valley Past and Present Employees,

As some of you may know, current staff has expressed concerns about the environment at St. Anthony's school in Northvale. These concerns stem from their belief that the children born to staff members who have worked at St. Anthony's have a "higher than normal" incidence of learning disabilities and neurological developmental problems. As a result of these concerns, the summer program has been moved out of the building and a decision about the 2007-2008 school year will be made at the Board of Education meeting on July 23, 2007.

In an effort to formally collect data and respond to these concerns, the Northern Valley Regional High School District is working collaboratively with the Deirdre Imus Environmental Center for Pediatrics at Hackensack University Medical Center. Dr. Lawrence Rosen, their medical advisor will be working collaboratively with Dr. Philip Landrigan, pediatrician, epidemiologist and internationally recognized leader in public health and preventative medicine. He is currently a faculty member at the Mt. Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

The first phase of data collection involves a voluntary health survey and interviews of all current staff members who worked in St. Anthony's during the 2006-2007 school year. In order to expand the research, we will also be reaching out to previous employees. If at any time during your employment at Valley/PIE programs you worked in St. Anthony's, please call 201-336-8071 to make an appointment. This includes males as well as females. Specifically, Dr. Rosen will be interviewing staff members who have been pregnant, given birth or fathered children. Participation in this process is strictly voluntary. The interview will be conducted by Dr. Rosen in his office at the Hackensack University Medical Center.

During the process, Dr. Rosen and his colleagues will be meeting with representatives from the Northern Valley Regional High School District, the NVEA, the Borough of Northvale and Archdiocese of Newark to provide updates and recommendations regarding the students, staff and the St. Anthony site.

This is a complex situation and we are thankful for the help of the medical professionals and in advance for any cooperation you can give us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Jan A. Furman".

Jan A. Furman
Superintendent of Schools

Cc: Northern Valley Regional HS District Board of Education
Mayor Hogan, Borough of Northvale
Mr. Raymond Jacobus
Mr. James McGuire
Dr. John McKeon