

Dear Willowridge Parents/Guardians and Staff,

We are in our third week of school after having had a successful restart to the 2017-18 school year following Hurricane Harvey. This has definitely been a challenging start to the school year for our WHS Eagles, with the mold cleanup taking place at our campus and the Districtwide closure following the storm. Through it all, our Eagles have soared above the adversity with true class and character.

I am writing to inform you of the latest developments in the mold cleanup process at Willowridge. As you recall, environmental experts have been devoting round-the-clock efforts to completing the cleanup process at our campus. We realize this has been a lengthy process, and we can assure you that it will be well worth the wait when we soon welcome students and staff back to our campus.

We are happy to announce that we are a few steps closer to reopening WHS. Facilities crews completed the cleanup process on September 8 and are now heavily involved in the restoration process – which involves replacing flooring, ceiling tiles and drywall, as well as painting walls, replacing furniture/instructional equipment and completing HVAC work.

Following the remediation work, however, a contractor conducted an inspection on the HVAC system to determine what may have contributed to the increased humidity over the summer when mold growth began. During this inspection, they found that the chillers were not functioning at full capacity, and at least three need to be replaced. This whole process has changed the scope of the restoration work, as well as the completion timeframe. We were planning to reenter our building before the Winter Break. Given the extent of the HVAC work that's needed and the delay caused by the hurricane, however, we are now expecting to re-enter the building immediately following the Winter Break, at the start of the spring semester, January 2018.

On the bright side, when all the work is completed, inspections are passed, and crews have gathered their equipment and moved on, we will celebrate our return to the newly-restored building with a Texas-sized, community ribbon-cutting ceremony that will feature our Mighty Eagle Band, cheerleaders, dance team, and more! Look out for details as we start the planning process. Although the building will have the same floorplan and walls, everything inside will be brand new, including the air conditioning system. And that, my friends, is definitely worth the wait.

Sincerely,

Thomas Graham
WHS Principal