



Teresa Fleming
Chief Operating Officer

September 28, 2026

Dear Kensington Community,

I am writing to share an update on the progress we are making to prepare your home school building for your return. Thank you for your patience and resilience during this time of transition.

There is good news: the HVAC installation that was suspended over the summer has resumed this week, as we are wrapping up the intensive cleaning project. Air samples were taken regularly during cleaning, when any asbestos-containing materials were repaired or removed, and at the completion of work in each area. These confirm the spaces meet federal and local standards to be open.

The cleaning project was initiated this summer after an asbestos inspector reported that old HVAC pipes may have been removed without proper protocols. The Office of Environmental Management & Services brought in asbestos workers to clean the building from the sub-basement to the attic. We have completed all but the attic, which should be done this week.

We have also taken the opportunity to remove many of the asbestos-containing materials that are common in old buildings, including some floor tiles, pipe wrap and plaster. Some asbestos-containing materials will remain because removal would have required demolition; for example, the glue dots that secure blackboards to the wall, some caulking, and insulation in pipe shafts that are sealed and inaccessible. As we do in all District buildings, asbestos materials will continue to be inspected every six months to monitor condition, and room-by-room logs are updated and published in inspection reports posted on our website, philasd.org/environmental.

When Kensington students and staff return in January, they'll have a more comfortable, healthy and welcoming school building.

We will continue to provide updates each month on our progress. We thank Principal Lebron and his team for their leadership, and all the students and families who have adapted to this temporary relocation.

We look forward to welcoming you home.

Sincerely,

Teresa Fleming
Chief Operating Officer