



West Irondequoit Central School District

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Dear Parents and Guardians:

You may have heard of a recent news article originally published in *USA Today* that lists Rogers and Southlawn Schools as being located in an area with poor air quality. The study uses data on chemical emissions reported by local industry and inputs it into a computer model. There are several aspects to the study that cause us to question its validity:

- Data used is from 2005
- The study assumes that one of the smokestacks cited is 50 feet tall, when it is actually 300+ feet tall, skewing the results
- One of the sources of the emissions was closed in March of 2007 because it was no longer needed by the manufacturer.

You can read the entire story at <http://content.usatoday.com/news/nation/environment/smokestack/index>. This article is the first time that we have been made aware of these concerns.

We have contacted the Monroe County Health Department and have learned that the air in this area has been monitored since 1988. Presently none of the chemicals in question are found in quantities sufficient to cause concern. The county and state health departments will determine what further testing, if any, is necessary.

We will continue to look into this matter and keep you apprised of what we learn. The health and safety of our students and staff is our greatest concern. As always, please contact school with any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

Bridget Harris
Michelle Ryan
School Principals

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