PALMYRA R-1
SCHOOL DISTRICT
Jason Harper, Superintendent | harperj@palmyra.k12.mo.us
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October 26, 2026

Dear Parents and Guardians,

We would like to inform our families and community that **Palmyra High School has been randomly selected** to participate in the Missouri Department of Public Safety's (DPS) Wastewater Testing for School Safety program. Testing at PHS is scheduled to begin during the first week of November.

Palmyra High School is **one of approximately 164 schools across Missouri** randomly selected to participate in this statewide initiative. We want to emphasize that our selection was entirely random and **was not prompted by any specific incident, suspicion, or concern involving our students or staff.**

What does this testing involve?

The program is designed to monitor wastewater for traces of potentially dangerous substances, including fentanyl and other synthetic opioids, as part of a statewide effort to promote school safety and awareness.

We want to reassure our families of the following:

- **No individual students or staff members will be tested.** The program involves collecting samples of wastewater leaving the high school building.
- The testing does not involve our drinking water and will not affect the school's water supply.
- Wastewater samples cannot identify individual students, staff members, or visitors.
- The testing is conducted by a state-contracted vendor at no cost to the district.

What happens after testing?

Wastewater monitoring provides general information about substances that may be present in a building's wastewater. If a substance is detected, the results cannot determine who used it, how many individuals may have used it, or whether it was used on school property.

The district will review the results when they become available and share relevant information with our school community.

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Our Commitment to Student Safety

The safety, health, and well-being of our students and staff remain our highest priorities. We view this program as another opportunity to support awareness, education, and prevention efforts.

We appreciate the continued trust and support of our families and community as we participate in this statewide initiative. Our goal is to keep everyone informed while ensuring that accurate information is shared throughout the process.

Respectfully,

Jason S. Harper
Superintendent