



September 11, 2022

Dear GSA Families:

Last week the Blue Hill Consolidated School discovered elevated levels of PFAS ("forever chemicals") in their water. In June, the EPA lowered the acceptable levels of PFAS in water, and some Maine schools are now seeing test results higher than the new standard.

GSA is up-to-date on all our water testing. Our next water tests are scheduled for later this fall. (Maine's Department of Health and Human Services now requires that all public drinking water be PFAS tested by December 31, 2022.) However, out of an abundance of caution, we have decided to accelerate our PFAS testing schedule and hope to have results within two weeks.

I want to emphasize two points:

- The EPA has changed the standard of acceptable levels of PFAS in water. This does not mean that the risk of PFAS chemicals has increased.
- According to the water treatment professionals GSA hires: (1) the water filters we already have in place, while not designed to trap PFAS, *do* in fact reduce them, and (2) even though we are close to BHCS, because of the nature of underground water, we may not have the same PFAS levels in our wells. We won't know until we test.

GSA will continue to use our well water while we await our test results. If our levels of PFAS are above the new standard, we will take mitigation measures as needed to meet or exceed the new standards as quickly as possible.

In the meantime, you may decide to have your child bring their own water to school. We have bottled water dispensers available in several locations around school for students to fill their bottles. We will add more Poland Springs water stations starting Tuesday. Poland Springs has confirmed that their 5-gallon jugs *contain no PFAS*.

(For more PFAS information, see: <https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/environmental-health/dwp/pws/pfas.shtml>)

I will keep you posted as I learn more. Please reach out to me if you have any questions.

Respectfully,

Timothy J. Seeley
Head of School