



McClave School District

Excellence • Honesty • Integrity • Respect

Friday, October 21, 2022

McClave Parents, Students, Staff and Community,

On Monday, October 17th, during a routine inspection, Atmos Energy found elevated levels of gas outside of the south side of the school (adjacent to the white gym), prompting an immediate evacuation. Gas readings had decreased to zero by Tuesday night, leading to the decision to allow McClave students and staff back into the building on Wednesday. At approximately 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, elevated gas levels were detected at the same location and, out of an abundance of caution, the school was evacuated a second time. Atmos Energy then collected soil samples from the area of concern and the results showed that natural gas was not present and that no leak in their gas line or meter had occurred. This ruled out natural gas as the cause of the gas readings. Elevated gas levels were never found at any other location outside of the school and were never detected inside of the school.

McClave School is currently working with professional plumbers and excavators to find the specific cause of the problem, but initial indications are that the source of gas may be coming from the school's adjacent septic system. This septic system only services the locker rooms in the white gym. These locker rooms will not be utilized until the cause of the problem has been identified and a course of corrective action decided.

The current plan is to return to in person learning on Monday, October 24th. If unsafe levels of gas are detected in the meantime, McClave School will publicly notify our school community as soon as possible and implement a contingency plan that will likely include off-site in person learning. Please know that this situation is fluid and we will update you as soon as we are able. We will continue to make all decisions based first and foremost on the safety of our students and staff. We understand the concerns of missed assignments and classes and will do our best to get students caught up and back on track when we return to in person learning Monday, October 24th.

Thank you for your patience and understanding.