

Dear Parent,

Your school has been chosen to participate in an exciting new way to help parents and students identify daily air quality.

WHY is that important?

It is important to know the daily air quality so children can avoid exposure during unhealthy days and enjoy outdoor play on healthy days.

Unhealthy air can cause airway swelling, decreased lung function, cough, scratchy throat, and feeling tired. In patients with asthma it can make asthma worse.

HOW will you know the daily air quality?

The FLAG PROGRAM at your child's school will alert you to the daily air quality and allow you to plan activities outdoors. A flag will be flown under the American flag displaying the air quality for the day.

GREEN- GOOD-- the air is healthy for everyone. Students are encouraged to enjoy the outdoors.

YELLOW- MODERATE-- the air is unhealthy for people who are unusually sensitive (infants, children and older adults) and people with lung or heart problems. This group should consider limiting outdoor activity.

ORANGE – UNHEALTHY-- the air is unhealthy for sensitive groups (infants, children and older adults) and people with lung or heart conditions. This group and people who are active outdoors should limit outdoor activities.

RED – VERY UNHEALTHY-- the air quality is unhealthy for all. Sensitive groups and people with lung or heart conditions should avoid outdoor activities. Everyone should limit outdoor activities.

We will be talking about air quality with your student and providing more information for you, the parents. As your student talks with you about their school day, remember to ask **WHAT COLOR WAS THE FLAG TODAY??**

The North Texas Asthma Consortium at www.northtexasasthma.org

