Greetings:

In 1986, Congress enacted the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) primarily to require K-12 school districts to identify Asbestos Containing Materials (ACM) in their school buildings and to take appropriate actions to control the release of asbestos fibers. In 1987, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) finalized a regulatory program which enforces AHERA. The Horry County School District is the AHERA-designated Local Educational Agency (LEA) and maintains AHERA compliance within their school buildings, including the Scholars Academy on the Coastal Carolina University campus. Information regarding the Horry County School District’s compliance with AHERA can be found at https://www.horrycountyschools.net/site/handlers/filedownload.ashx?moduleinstanceid=14165&dataid=22225&FileName=AHERA_Public_Notice_HCS_10272018.pdf.

Some Scholars Academy students also attend classes in University-owned buildings. Accordingly, and as an AHERA program participant, Coastal Carolina University had its school facilities inspected by a U.S. EPA and South Carolina-accredited asbestos building inspector. During the inspection, samples were taken of building materials suspected of containing asbestos. The results of the inspection and laboratory analysis of a number of material samples confirmed the presence of ACM in portions of the school’s facilities.

Upon confirmation of the presence of ACM, a U.S. EPA and South Carolina-accredited management planner developed an Asbestos Management Plan (AMP) for our school. The University AMP includes inspection and physical assessment reports, a training program for our custodial and maintenance personnel, plans and procedures to be followed to minimize disturbance of known ACM, and a program for regular ACM surveillance.

In general and at a minimum, the AHERA program requires the school to complete the following on a yearly basis:

• Develop and maintain an approved and appropriate Asbestos Management Plan in a conspicuous place. Make this plan available to concerned persons during reasonable hours.
• Have buildings inspected every three years by an accredited inspector for all friable and/or non-friable known or assumed Asbestos-Containing Building Materials (ACBM) to determine whether the condition of the ACBM has changed and to make recommendations on managing or removing the ACBM.
• A person knowledgeable in the ongoing condition of the schools’ asbestos must conduct surveillance every six months on all friable and/or non-friable known or assumed ACBM to determine whether the condition of the ACBM has changed.
• Provide training to custodial and maintenance personnel within sixty days of their employment at least once during their tenure at the University.
• Post an annual notice to parents, teachers and other building occupants as to the current condition of ACM and/or ACBM and the relevant actions taken during the past year as well as those planned to be taken in the year to come.

According to the current Asbestos Management Plan, ACM are located within Coastal Carolina University. Asbestos inspections are completed biannually during January and July. The next three-year inspection will be completed in July 2019. As of this writing, an asbestos abatement project is planned in Wheelwright Auditorium for the spring/summer of 2018.

For further details on specific locations of ACBM or on specific asbestos activities, a copy of the Asbestos Management Plan is available to review in the Environmental, Health and Safety (EHS) office during regular business hours. The EHS office is located at 470B Allied Drive, Conway, SC. Inquiries regarding the Asbestos Management Plan should be directed to Boyd Holt, Environmental Health and Safety Director, Coastal Carolina University at 843-349-2770 or via email at bholt@coastal.edu.