

(Schools that adopt the Air Quality Flag Program can send this letter to the parents to explain the program and what the flags mean.)

Dear Parent,

How much pollution is in the air outside today? Our school community can now find out by simply looking up. We fly brightly colored flags to show how clean or polluted the air is each day. The flags correspond to the colors of the Air Quality Index. The Air Quality Flag Program helps students to continue exercise while protecting their health.

Every school day we fly a flag with one of the following colors:

- Green-good air quality
- Yellow-moderate air quality
- Orange-unhealthy for some people, including children and those with asthma
- Red-unhealthy for everyone
- Purple- very unhealthy for everyone

Days that are code green and yellow signal teachers and coaches to encourage their students to get outside and get moving. When air quality is orange or red, it is still o.k. to play outside, but we will encourage kids to reduce activities that involve lots of running. Also on orange and red days we will make indoor space available for any child who has asthma or who complains of difficulty breathing. The flags help students and teachers with asthma notice whether their symptoms get worse, and whether they need to take extra steps to protect their health.

The Air Quality Flag Program is used in many cities in the U. S. and we're proud to be a part of the program! In addition to raising flags, we will have in-class activities to learn more about air pollution, how it affects us, and what we can do to make the air cleaner.

For more information on the Flag Program, visit the website at AirNow.gov.