



April 1, 2025

CMS Community,

Yesterday you received a robocall alerting you to an odor on the third floor of CMS. In that communication, CMS Principal Karen Staunton advised that we would provide an update when we knew more.

With that in mind, we wanted to provide a brief update on what occurred and what we currently know.

What happened:

Yesterday morning around 10:30 a.m., an unknown odor was reported on the third floor of Covington Middle School. The descriptions of this odor were consistent with the odor that was detected on January 31, 2025.

After investigating the smell, AHPS staff determined that the third-floor odor did not require a building evacuation. The Covington Police Chief and Emergency Manager also came to the building to assess the situation first-hand and independently determined that there was no immediate cause for action.

Nevertheless, teachers in nearby classrooms were allowed to move their classes to another location in the building if they felt it would help them or their students concentrate on coursework more effectively. A robocall was sent to parents to provide them with an update at approximately 11:20 a.m.

This morning, there were again a few reports of the odor returning, but it disappeared quickly and no further actions were determined to be necessary at that time.

Attendance Impact:

Yesterday afternoon, many concerned parents came to the school and checked their students out for the day. As a result, attendance was lower than normal for the remainder of the day. That trend continued this morning, with many families choosing to keep their students home. Today's absence figures remain significantly higher than usual.

School Board Meeting:

Last night, the school board met in closed session to seek legal advice from its legal counsel.

Additional Information:

At this time, there are no other reports or informational updates to release.

As always, thank you for your continued partnership and support as we work through this challenging situation together.

Kim Halterman, Superintendent AHPS