



BOYERTOWN AREA SCHOOL DISTRICT
EDUCATION CENTER

“to enable all students to succeed in a changing world”

April 2018

Dear Parents and Guardians:

I am sure you remember the interesting-looking yet annoying and destructive spotted lanternfly (*Lycorma delicatula*) that seemed to appear from nowhere last summer. This invasive bug, which is native to China, was first detected in Pennsylvania in September 2014. The spotted lanternfly feeds on a wide range of fruit, ornamental, and woody trees; tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*) is one of its preferred hosts. If allowed to spread in the United States, the spotted lanternfly could seriously impact the country's grape, orchard, and logging industries.

Upon arriving in the United States, the spotted lanternfly was determined to be a new plant pest, and the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture (PDA) has vigorously pursued research into the most effective means of controlling and eradicating this bug.

The PDA has informed the Boyertown Area School District that we are located in what has been determined to be a quarantine area, and has issued a treatment order for all district properties. This letter is to inform you of that treatment order.

The PDA has contracted with a fully insured, properly licensed pesticide contractor to conduct an inventory of tree-of-heaven trees on District properties. During this survey, trees will be marked with either a blue or red mark to indicate whether they will be disposed of or left standing.

Trees marked for disposal will be cut and chipped and their stumps will be treated with an herbicide. Cut trees and debris are not to be removed from the quarantine area.

Trees left standing that are not treated with herbicide will be treated with pesticide. Some of the other trees left standing will be hacked and squirted with an herbicide. The PDA will follow up with further surveying to determine the efficacy of the spotted lanternfly treatment.

The PDA has assured the District that extra precautions will be taken while the contractor is working on District properties. No activities involving pesticides and herbicides will occur when children are present.

The contractor will be responsible for securing all permits, and the PDA is responsible for all costs involved.

Should you have any questions relating to this treatment order, please contact Mr. William Gasper at 484-955-0457.

Sincerely,

David Krem
Acting Superintendent