

The Record

[Print](#) | [Close](#)

Chemical fears shut 2 classrooms

Thursday, November 15, 2007

By MICHAEL GARTLAND
STAFF WRITER

HACKENSACK -- Hackensack High School has closed two classrooms due to concerns over chemicals in laboratory storage areas, school officials said Wednesday.

District administrators said there is no evidence to indicate a chemical spill occurred and that the closures are precautionary, stemming from routine cleanups.

Principal Mark Porto said teachers became worried when they learned that mercury was being stored in the building.

"There have been concerns among staff members who felt maybe these chemicals were the reason why they were sick," he said. "There was no spill. There was nothing that prompted this except inventorying the chem labs."

The district has hired an environmental engineering firm to inspect two classrooms and remove chemicals no longer used in laboratory exercises. Superintendent Joseph Montesano said the firm, the East Brunswick-based Whitman Co., is expected to report the results on Monday.

"Just as a precaution, we did take the kids out of those rooms," he said. The rooms in question are Room 426 and the room below it.

Parents with children at the high school learned about the cleanup Tuesday night at a school board meeting. Letters alerting parents were mailed Wednesday.

Copyright © 2007 North Jersey Media Group Inc.
[Copyright Infringement Notice](#) [User Agreement & Privacy Policy](#)

[Print](#) | [Close](#)