

**Tools for Schools (TFS)/Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Updates**  
**2012-2013 School year**  
***By JoAnn Duncan***

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**Did you know...**that plants can be a threat to indoor air quality (IAQ) especially in media centers and classrooms due to their potential for growing mold and fungus and collecting dust? Also, watering plants allows for moisture incursion (e.g. spills, over watering) and, if papers, books, cardboard or carpets get wet, they have the potential to grow mold.

Plants are not prohibited in the Westport Public Schools, but it is strongly recommended that they not be present in media centers, libraries, any carpeted areas or areas near books or cardboard. Those who have plants in their work areas, especially in media centers, libraries and classrooms, shall be responsible to:

- Place plants in ceramic or plastic pots, not in wicker or other porous containers
- Water plants away from porous materials (e.g. paper, books) and avoid spills
- Remove dead or fallen leaves from the soil before watering as these, once wet, can grow mold
- Keep the plants clean (prevent dust build up on leaves)
- Monitor them for growth of mold and fungus and discard the plant if mold or fungus is found
- Discard all dead plants