

SCHOOL OPENING NEWSLETTER

A newsletter to keep parents and students affected by closures, relocations and mergers up-to-date in preparation for the first day of school



Office of Student Services secures behavioral health supports for students in transition

The Office of Student Services has been working diligently to ease the transition process for students with behavioral health challenges.

The office’s goal is to ensure that students who were receiving behavioral health services at schools that closed will have access to the requisite supports at their new schools.

“This will keep academics as the primary focus,” said Ericka Washington, Deputy Chief of Student Services and Transition.

Many receiving schools will offer School Therapeutic Services (STS), which provides elementary and middle school students and families with



necessary resources to promote social and emotional development. The services are an important part of the school day for many students, which is why the District has secured STS in several receiving schools.

School Therapeutic Services are offered during the regular school day and includes individual and group therapy sessions, as well as one-to-one interventions and consultations with a Behavioral Health Worker. Designed to target specific behavioral issues that interfere with children’s learning ability, STS strives to create an environment that promotes optimal behavioral health.

School Therapeutic Services are funded and managed by Community Behavioral Health (CBH), a city agency. The District will implement and maintain School Therapeutic Services in the following receiving schools this fall: Julia deBurgos, William McKinley, John F. Hartranft, Tilden Middle School, William Dick, W.D. Kelley, E.M. Stanton, Tanner Duckrey, Abigail Vare, Rhodes, Ethel Allen, Morris, Potter Thomas, Penn Treaty, Emlen, Wister, Leeds, Rowen, Pennypacker, Pennell, Wagner, Childs, Arthur, Longstreth, Blankenburg, and Heston.



For more information on the program, please call CBH at 888-545-2600.

How are we doing?

A snapshot of the District’s progress in preparing receiving schools for the new school year:

Percentage of...	
Students requiring specialized services who were offered the opportunity to visit their receiving school	100%
Receiving schools with facilities upgrades completed	53%
Receiving schools with a confirmed principal for next year	96%
CTE students reassigned to similar or equivalent programs	100%

District partners with Springboard Collaborative to combat summer learning loss

This summer, the District will launch a partnership with Springboard Collaborative to provide a literacy program to students at four elementary schools.

Research finds that elementary-aged students in low-income communities face huge reading losses over the summer, and that the achievement gap among high school students is mostly related to summer learning loss during the elementary school years.

The Springboard model combines targeted student instruction with parent training in an incentivized system designed to close the literacy gap for students by fourth grade. Student incentives will include educational resources such as books and school supplies.

Springboard will enable students to make significant and lasting literacy gains, encourage parents and teachers to collaborate, and help individuals from closing and receiving schools to foster a renewed sense of community before school starts in September. Springboard Collaborative will operate in the following schools:



Springboard School:	Receiving Students From:
Blaine Elementary School	L.P. Hill Elementary School
Hartranft Elementary School	Ferguson Elementary School
McKinley Elementary School	Ferguson Elementary School
Duckrey Elementary School	M. Hall Stanton Elementary School

For more information, please visit springboardcollaborative.org.



- **Know your child's school for 2013-14.** All students should have received a letter from the Office of Student Enrollment and Placement. If you have not received a letter, please call 215-400-4290.
- **Review next year's school calendar.** The academic calendar for next year is now available online at www.philasd.org/calendar/2013_2014. The first day of school is September 9.
- **Sign up to receive information and updates about the transition process.** Visit

<http://www.philasd.org/transitionlistserve> for more information.

- **Finalize transportation plans.** The Office of Transportation Services will determine which students who are eligible to receive school bus transportation and SEPTA passes based on certain state mandates and School District of Philadelphia policy. If your child is eligible for transportation services, you will receive a letter from the Office of Transportation Services this summer.
- **Prepare School Uniforms.** All School District of Philadelphia students are required to wear a uniform. To review the uniform policy for your child's school, please visit the School Opening website, www.philasd.org/schoolopening.
- **Attend the Family and Education Reunion.** Join us for the Family & Education Reunion on Saturday, August 10 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for free giveaways, educational workshops and more! The event will take place at the School of the Future, 4021 Parkside Ave.
- **Attend an Open House:** The Office of Family and Community Engagement is scheduling Open Houses at each receiving school. A list of open houses will be posted on the School Opening website in mid-July.

NSBE to offer summer STEM program

Third through fifth grade students are invited to attend the National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Summer Engineering Experience for Kids (SEEK) program, a free, fun, three-week engineering camp at McDaniel Elementary that emphasizes math and science concepts.

Participants will be exposed to:

- * STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) through hands-on engineering projects
- * College STEM students
- * The roles and responsibilities of engineers

Each week, the campers will take on a new project, culminating with a presentation and design completion that all parents are invited to attend.

SEEK is open to current third through fifth-graders. McDaniel Elementary is located at 1801 S. 22nd St. For more information, please visit www.nsbe.org/seek.aspx, or call 215-400-5872.



Frequently Called

IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT...

CONTACT

Academic Enrichment and Support Provides guidance and professional development for teachers in the areas of music, art, dance, theater, phys. ed., out of school time, athletics, libraries and world languages	215-400-5902
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Attendance and Truancy Provides supportive services to schools to improve student attendance and reduce truancy	215-400-4220
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Career and Technical Education Provides programs and services for students engaged in Career and Technical Education	215-400-2331
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Early Childhood Provides programs and services for children from birth to age six and their families	215-400-4270
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Family & Community Engagement Enables families and communities to access and engage in District programs and services	215-400-4180
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Multilingual Education Provides multilingual services and supports to students and families	215-400-4240
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Student Placement Evaluates student transfer requests and determines student placement in schools	215-400-4290
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Student Records Maintains and processes requests for student records (transcripts, verifications, subpoenas, disability records, etc.)	215-400-4780
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Specialized Services Provides special education, specialized support, and student health services	215-400-4170
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School Safety Engages with school administrators, police, students, parents and community members to enhance student safety in and around schools	215-400-4710
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Transportation Provides safe transportation to students in the Philadelphia area who attend public, non-public, charter, parochial and private schools	215-400-4350
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General Information	215-400-4000
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Stay connected!

