

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



Dear Parents, Guardians and Community Partners,

As the school year comes to a close, I would like to thank you for the time and energy that you put into the Facilities Master Plan (FMP) process and update you on the District's preparations for opening schools in September.

This fall, 53 schools will receive new students as a result of the closures, relocations and mergers approved by the School Reform Commission (SRC). Work is moving rapidly to ensure that all schools and students have a seamless transition.

By now, every student affected by the process has received a letter identifying their school for the 2013-14 school year. In addition, nearly 40 percent of the facilities work slated to be done before school starts has already been completed. The remainder of the transition work will take place after the school year ends on June 21.

The District is committed to keeping students, parents, staff and community partners informed about this process. We will provide updates on the School Opening website (www.philasd.org/schoolopening) and release the School Opening Newsletter on a bi-weekly basis. Updates on facility conditions, climate and safety, student programs and a schedule of open houses at receiving schools will be shared online and through the newsletter.

Your child's principal will also be in touch with you throughout the summer to provide additional information.

I am confident that by aligning our buildings and resources with enrollment, we have laid the groundwork to improve learning opportunities for all students. I encourage you to stay engaged in this process and send your questions to schoolopening@philasd.org. Together, we can ensure that Philadelphia's students get the education they deserve.

Thanks again for your support,

William R. Hite, Jr., Ed.D.

How are we doing?

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

Percent of..

Receiving schools that received a facility assessment	100%
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Receiving schools with completed facilities work	40%
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Closing schools with completed inventories for new programs	91%
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Students who were sent a letter identifying their school for the 2013-14 school year	100%
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Sign up to get emails about the transition process at <http://www.philasd.org/transitionlistserve>.

Promoting Positive Partnerships to Improve School Safety and Climate

The School District of Philadelphia announced this week a \$730, 676 multi-year grant to improve school climate from the Philadelphia Foundation's Fund for Children. Schools receiving services under the grant were selected because they will receive new students this fall. The schools will implement two programs, Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), and Restorative Practices. PBIS will be implemented at the following schools: Penrose, Rhodes, Lea, Rudolph, Hartranft, Tilden, Duckrey, Roberto Clemente, Martha Washington, and William McKinley.

Restorative Practices will be implemented at the following schools: Ben Franklin, High School of the Future, John Bartram, Martin Luther King, Morris E. Leeds, Overbrook High School, Robert Morris, Roxborough, South Philadelphia, and Harding.



Through the Safe Corridor Initiative, The School District of Philadelphia and numerous city agencies, including the City's Police Department, SEPTA, and the Office of Volunteer Services, will work together to identify the safest route for students to travel to and from school. Specifically, the group will work to identify hot spots, large intersections, wide streets, and other conditions that could affect students' safety. The group's input will be used to establish new routes for student travel and to redeploy crossing guards. Mayor Michael A. Nutter has added 10 additional Safe Corridor teams to the City budget to support students and families.



Starting this fall, South Philadelphia High School and Martin Luther King High School will partner with Outward Bound, the premier provider of experience-based outdoor leadership programs. Since 1962, Outward Bound has taken more than 1 million people on adventures that build character, teach leadership skills and inspire a service ethic. Students from South Philadelphia High School, Bok Technical Institute, and MLK will participate in team building and leadership training with Outward Bound in the fall. This partnership was created through the Office of the Safe Schools Advocate, and the Philadelphia Youth Network. For more information about Outward Bound, visit www.outwardbound.org/.



Martin Luther King (MLK) High School will partner with the Philadelphia Urban Youth Racing School next year in an effort to expand and enhance its automotive engineering program. Urban Youth, established in 1998, encourages students to pursue careers in

Frequently Called Numbers

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

Attendance and Truancy

Provides supportive services to schools to improve student attendance and reduce truancy

215-400-4220

Career and Technical Education

Provides programs and services for students engaged in Career and Technical Education

215-400-2331

Early Childhood

Provides programs and services for children from birth to age six and their families

215-400-4270

Family & Community Engagement

Enables families and communities to access and engage in District programs and services

215-400-4180

Multilingual Education

Provides multilingual services and supports to students and families

215-400-4240

Student Placement

Evaluates student transfer requests and determines student placement in schools

215-400-4290

Student Records

Maintains and processes requests for student records (transcripts, verifications, subpoenas, disability records, etc.)

215-400-4780

Specialized Services Provides special education, specialized support, and student health services

215-400-4170

School Safety

Engages with school administrators, police, students, parents and community members to enhance student safety in and around schools

215-400-4710

Transportation

Provides safe transportation to students in the Philadelphia area who attend public, non-public, charter, parochial and private schools

215-400-4350

General Information

215-400-4000

science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) fields. The partnership will introduce more students to the academic and athletic aspects of competitive motor sports while teaching them about the business end of the automotive industry. For more information, visit www.uyrs.com.





Back-to-School Checklist

Use our back-to-school checklist to get ready for the first day!

- 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.

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