

P.10 en español: Cómo seleccionar una escuela superior

Philadelphia Public School

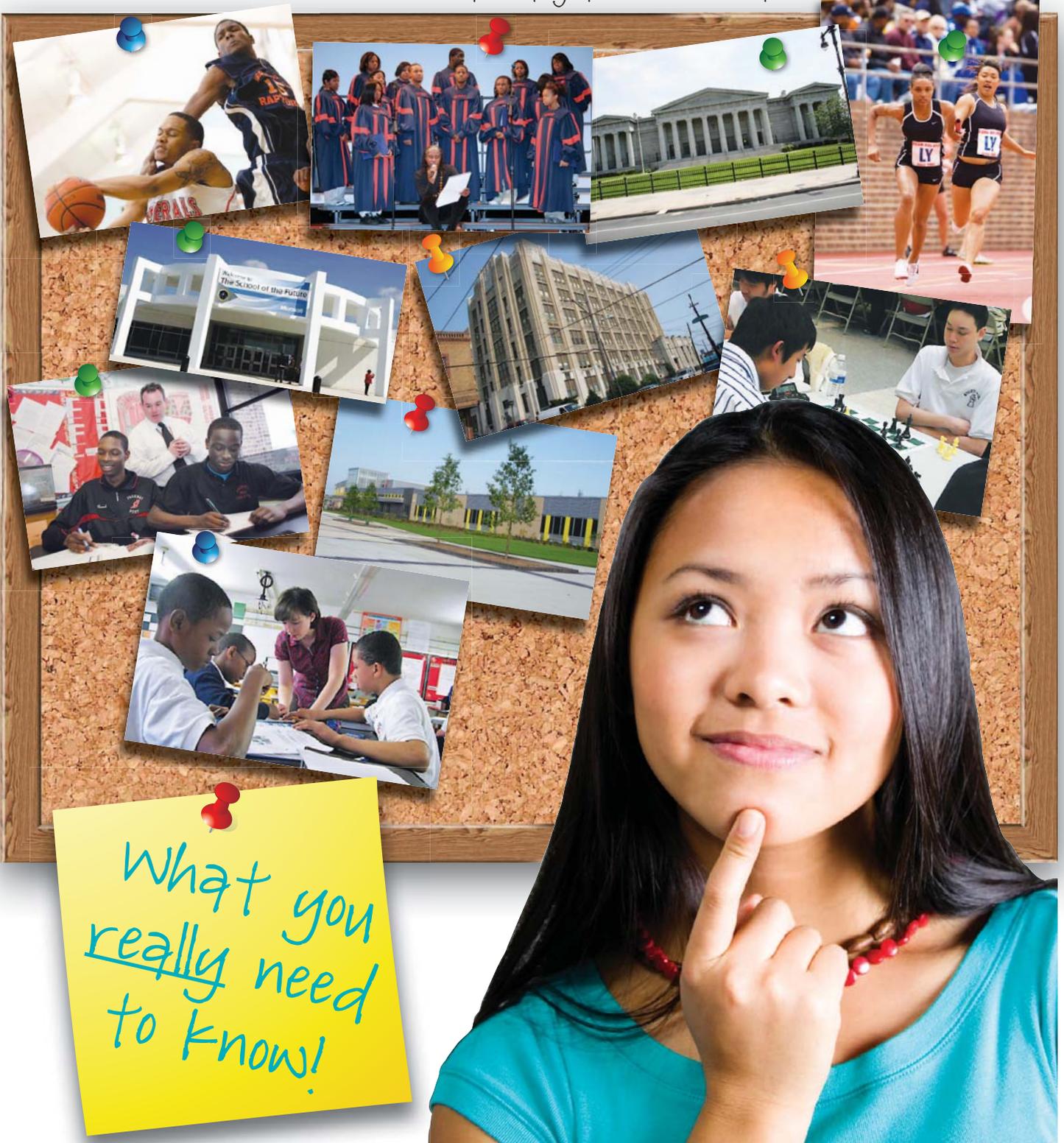
# the notebook fall guide

Vol. 18 No. 1 2010

[www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org)

## Spotlight: Choosing a High School

Get started with a four-page pullout section on p. 17



What you really need to know!

# table of contents

## SPOTLIGHT: CHOOSING A HIGH SCHOOL

- 2 A note from the editor
- 3 Lots of changes this fall
- 4 Services expanding for families, students
- 5 High expectations for turnaround at 13 schools
- 6 Summer Bridge at Bartram
- 8 Valedictorians find success despite school-choice struggles
- 10 En español
- 11 School calendar
- 12 Profiles: Special admission high schools
- 17 FAQ on how to apply; timeline for choosing; counselors offer advice
- 18 Philadelphia's District and charter high schools: How are they doing?
- 20 Where to look on the Web to find lots of data
- 23 Profiles: Citywide admission high schools
- 26 Profiles: Neighborhood high schools
- 31 Profiles: Charter high schools
- 36 Activities help shape life in high school

More online at [www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org)

Cover design by Joseph Kemp

Photos by (top row from left) Kevin Cook, Harvey Finkle, Harvey Finkle, Dave Tavani  
(2nd row) School District of Phila., Harvey Finkle, ASAP  
(3rd row) Harvey Finkle (both)  
(4th row) Benjamin Herold

## a note from the editor



Welcome to our annual fall guide, the first of the *Notebook's* six print editions for the new school year. Each September we try to provide you with vital information in an edition designed to be kept as a reference.

Because of the overwhelming response to last year's guide, we are again spotlighting public high schools. For 8th graders, decision time for applying to high school comes up very quickly – this year the deadline is Oct. 29. And for younger students and the adults who care about them, it's never too early to start thinking about high school.

With so many District options and the expansion of charters, high school selection seems to get more complicated each year. Breaking it all down for you is a priority because finding the right high school is one of the most important decisions that students and families make.

In Philadelphia's tiered system, not all options are created equal. Inequities are readily apparent from the statistics in the center spread of this guide. For instance, in some high schools nearly every entering ninth grader graduates four years later, but in others barely one in four makes it through. Our profiles of District and charter schools show that some have rich arrays of programs and activities, while others have few special offerings, either academic or extracurricular.

Last fall we reported that Superintendent Arlene Ackerman expressed concern that the high school selection process may not be fair to all students. Like us, she took note of the Research for Action finding that

while most students participate in the application process, fewer than half of those were admitted to and enrolled in any of their chosen schools.

But earlier this year, a draft proposal designed to help level the playing field leaked out and stirred opposition from some at the city's most selective schools. In the ensuing storm, Ackerman yanked it and the conversation ended.

We hope that this guide can revive a dialogue about how to make it possible for more students to enroll in a high school they want to attend.

This guide tries to supplement the wealth of information in the District's annual high school directory. One way is by helping our readers to access and understand the publicly available data about school performance. Unlike the District, we cannot require schools fill out our survey. We regret that we don't have responses from all schools. Look for more complete information and additional tools for examining the data on our website at [www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org).

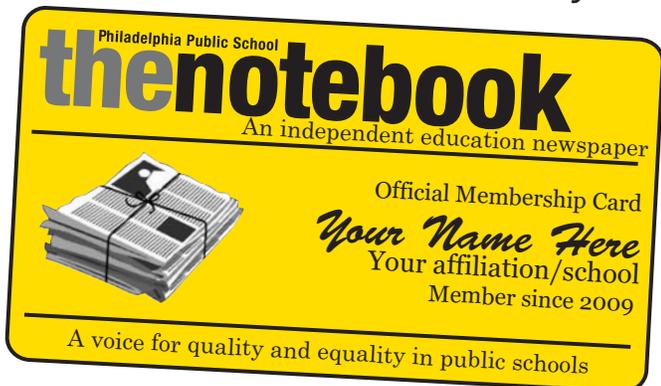
If you find this guide valuable, we encourage you to become a member of the *Notebook*. As a reader-supported, nonprofit news organization, we depend on your contributions to maintain our independent watchdog role. We welcome your feedback. Thanks for reading!

Paul Socolar, editor and director

Keep the *Notebook* strong, independent, and free!

# Join Us!

## Become a Member today!



Membership entitles you to a copy of each edition delivered by first class mail!

Connect with a community working for quality public education, get event discounts, and more!

To join, please fill out the form on page 36.

For more information, visit [www.thenotebook.org/membership](http://www.thenotebook.org/membership)

## Philadelphia Public School thenotebook

An independent, nonprofit news service and newspaper – a voice for parents, students, classroom teachers, and others who are working for quality and equality in Philadelphia public schools.

**Leadership board:** Christie Balka, Jolley Bruce Christman, Derrick Gantt, Abigail Gray, Helen Gym, Harold Jordan, Len Rieser, Brett Schaeffer, Mary Ann Smith, Ron Whitehorne, Jeff Wicklund

**Editor:** Paul Socolar

**Managing editor:** Wendy Harris

**Contributing editor:** Dale Mezzacappa

**Web editor:** Erika Owens

**Operations/business manager:** Corey Mark

**Design:** Joseph Kemp

**Photography:** Harvey Finkle

**Copy editor:** Juli Warren

**Spanish translation:** Mildred S. Martínez

**Editorial assistance:** Eileen Abrams, Len Rieser, Deborah Russell-Brown, Sandy Socolar

**Interns:** Brad Gibson, Amy Jacob, Jamie Raver, Rajiv Venkataramanan, Monika Zaleska

**Distribution:** Ashley Arnwine, Rebecca Bradley, Ron Whitehorne, Salvation Army

**Special thanks to...** Our members, advertisers, and volunteers who distribute the *Notebook*. Funding in part from the Barra Foundation, Bread and Roses Community Fund, Communities for Public Education Reform, Samuel S. Fels Fund, Patricia Kind Family Foundation, John S. and James L. Knight Foundation, The Philadelphia Foundation, Union Benevolent Association, William Penn Foundation, and from hundreds of Individuals.



## Lots of changes this fall

As the school year starts, the District is abuzz with the shakeup of Ackerman's cabinet, new schools, curriculum, and teacher supports.

by Wendy Harris

Despite an uncertain fiscal future, the School District under Arlene Ackerman is pressing ahead this year with major new initiatives called for in her reform blueprint, buoyed by an eighth straight year of test score increases and more schools meeting federal achievement goals.

Superintendent Ackerman has also been busy remaking her cabinet and restructuring the chain of command to the schools by eliminating regional offices. The summer has been marked by high-profile hires, job switches, and departures at the District's top level, as well as significant principal turnover. A *Notebook* analysis discovered that more than 100 schools have replaced their principals since June 2009 due to reassignments, resignations, or retirements.

Less visible, but potentially far-reaching, is the beginning of a new system of teacher evaluation called Peer Assistance

and Review in which specially trained teachers will work with new teachers and ones rated unsatisfactory.

Another initiative is designed to tackle widespread student misbehavior by instituting in-school suspension. Now, the major punishment for school code violations is banning students from school, which causes them to miss academic work and doesn't address the misbehavior issues.

Although the District has garnered national attention and scrutiny from the U.S. Department of Justice for attacks on Asian students at South Philadelphia High School, District officials say that violent incidents citywide have dropped 29 percent over the past two years.

The District is also adopting a new curriculum called *Imagine It* in low-performing Empowerment Schools – from the same company as the remedial math and reading curriculum that has caused consternation among some teachers for its highly scripted nature.

But Ackerman is confident these programs are working. She noted that 158 schools reached adequate yearly progress targets in 2010, the most since 2004, including 10 that never made it before. For the first time ever, more than half of students tested proficient in reading and math.

"These dramatic gains have given us greater assurance of how we're going to continue to meet the challenges," she said at an August School Reform Commission meeting.

Besides mandating the remedial curriculum and providing staff supports in Empowerment Schools, *Imagine 2014* has reduced class size in grades K-3 and brought in 150 more counselors for middle and high schools.

Along with changes in curriculum and new services for parents and students (see p. 4), the school year also starts with uncertainty, as the administrative restructuring and upheaval require much sorting out about how to navigate the new system. Sweeping changes are also taking place at the 13 schools converted to Renaissance Schools and Promise Academies (see p. 5).

### Leadership reorganized

Restructuring of the administration began with Ackerman's promotion of Leroy Nunery, former chief of institutional advancement and strategic partnerships, to the new number-two post of deputy superintendent. That was followed by a major reshuffling of Ackerman's top-level staff and elimination of the regional office structure.

In place of the regions are nine "academic divisions," based in the central office, each of which is headed by an assistant superintendent. Five of the divisions oversee elementary schools, and there is one each for high schools, middle schools, alternative schools, and Promise Academies.

Amidst the restructuring in August, the District experienced two sudden departures: James Golden, chief of school safety, who left, he said, for another opportunity, and Lisa Mastoon, Ackerman's third chief communications officer, who quit after just two weeks.

### Support for teachers

The first phase of the Peer Assistance and Review program (PAR) program – which will consist of 15 consulting teachers – will begin this school year in 45 Empowerment Schools. It is jointly managed by the District and Philadelphia Federation of Teachers.

The consulting teachers will work in different schools, maintaining a teacher-consulting teacher ratio of 16:1, said Dee Phillips, special assistant to the PFT president. There are plans to expand PAR to half of the District by year two and the en-



Harvey Finkle

After years of campaigning by student activists, Kensington High School for the Creative and Performing Arts opens its \$42 million state-of-the-art facility in September.

tire District by year three.

"We are going to drill down deep so that these teachers do get on the right track so that the struggling diminishes," Phillips said. "If you help teachers, you help our students" improve achievement.

The Office of Teacher Affairs operating since May at District headquarters supports the orientation of new teachers and provides resources for all teachers. It does not address contractual, disciplinary, or employee relations matters, but rather offers workshops, weekly seminars, and professional learning opportunities.

Students will find new offerings as well, honors classes in every high school and the new in-school suspension program. Fifty-

three schools were identified in the 2009-10 school year to participate, and phase one began in January with 18 schools.

Those schools chosen had "the highest out-of-school suspension rate, a high number of incident reports over a two-year period, and average daily attendance numbers that could be positively affected by a decrease in out-of-school suspensions," said Tomas Hanna, associate superintendent of academics.

Each school has a dedicated space with an in-school suspension monitor, who staffs the room along with counselors. Students receive support for both academics and behavior. When students have

(continued on page 4)

In place of regions are nine "academic divisions," based in the central office, each headed by an assistant superintendent.

Please join  
Communities In Schools of Philadelphia for  
"MY COMPLIMENTS TO THE CHEF", Part IX  
on Thursday, October 14, 2010.



## about the notebook

The *Philadelphia Public School Notebook* is an independent news service whose mission is to promote informed public involvement in the Philadelphia public schools and to contribute to the development of a strong, collaborative movement for positive educational change in city schools and for schools that serve all children well. The *Notebook* has published a newspaper since 1994.

*Philadelphia Public School Notebook* is a project of the New Beginning Nonprofit Incubator of Resources for Human Development. Send inquiries to:

Philadelphia Public School Notebook • 3721 Midvale Ave. • Philadelphia, PA 19129

Phone: 215-951-0330, ext. 2107 • Fax: 215-951-0342 • Email: [notebook@thenotebook.org](mailto:notebook@thenotebook.org)

Web: [www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org) The *Notebook* is a member of the Sustainable Business Network

Martin Nock, President & CEO

2000 Hamilton Street, Suite 201 | Philadelphia, PA 19130

Phone: 267.386.4600 | Fax: 267.330.0164 | [info@cisphl.org](mailto:info@cisphl.org) | [www.cisphl.org](http://www.cisphl.org)

## Services expanding for families, students

**Parent and Family Resource Centers** will open in the former regional offices. The eight centers will provide parents with help related to registration, enrollment, and student placement; transfers/withdrawals; special education, early childhood, and English language learner programs and supports; re-engagement with school for dropouts; transportation; and social service interventions.

Centers will be located in the former North (215-456-0998), Northeast (215-281-5903), Northwest (215-248-6684), South (215-351-7604), Southwest (215-727-5920), West (215-823-5530), and Central (215-400-7272) regions. The eighth will cover Central East and East regions (215-291-5696). There will be no center to cover the former high school region.

Karen Dunkley, deputy chief for parent, family, community engagement and faith-based partnerships, said parents should go to the nearest office. "Parents can walk in with a transportation inquiry, a need around their child's IEP, a child in another school that needs intervention services, or just wanting professional development as a parent. Here you have a one-stop shop."

Parent ombudsmen and parent liaisons will staff the sites, and there will be bilingual services.

**Welcome and Enrollment Centers for Multilingual Families** help parents of immigrant students new to the District complete applications to enroll their children in school.

A site at District headquarters opened in August. Three others open this fall in the Parent and Family Resource Centers in North, Northeast, and South Philadelphia. They will assess students for language proficiency and academic level and

place them in appropriate programs after discussion with the family, said Lucy Fera, deputy chief of multilingual curriculum and programs. They will also help the families access social services.

Each center also has an Internet kiosk where parents can find information in their native language.

The **Translation and Interpretation Center** at 440 N. Broad St. provides non-English speaking parents with assistance with school-related questions through language hotlines in Albanian, Arabic, Chinese, Cambodian, French, Russian, Spanish, and Vietnamese; language identification cards; and a language identification chart which they can reference so that staff will know which language access coordinator to assign. When no trained interpreter is available, multilingual families can obtain translation services from a free, 24-hour access line that provides 170 different languages.

A second **Re-engagement Center** for dropouts seeking to return to school opened on N. Front St. in August. With a bilingual staff, it is designed primarily to serve the Latino community. The first Re-engagement Center, in District headquarters since 2008, has placed nearly 2,800 in accelerated schools, GED programs, and EOPs (Educational Options Programs).

**Regional Talent Centers** opened at Martin Luther King High School in Mount Airy in March and at Audenried High School in South Philadelphia in September. They provide afterschool and Saturday classes in visual arts, theatre, dance, and music for 6th-12th graders.

—Wendy Harris

## What's new

(continued from page 3)

completed the program, a counselor conducts a conference with the student, parent, teacher, and others to assess whether the supports have worked. Students receive credit for academic work completed in the program. To date, about 7,500 students have taken part.

Meanwhile, for grades K-6, the District spent \$8 million to purchase the *Imagine It* series, curriculum materials produced by SRA, the publishers of the Corrective Reading and Corrective Math remedial programs. Imagine It has a structured routine that covers all components of literacy, and provides additional teacher support and assessments.

### New schools

Kensington Urban Education Academy, the fourth small high school to grow out of the former Kensington High School, opens in September with a focus on social justice and preparing students for teaching careers.

The academy will inherit the space in

the old high school on Coral Street, formerly used by Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts. Expected enrollment is 100-125 incoming 9th graders, but the school will grow a grade each year.

"It's going to be a training ground for us to grow our own teachers," said Principal Michelle Burns, with an emphasis on teachers of color and bilingual teachers. The school is looking for a university partner, Burns said.

Kensington CAPA is moving to a \$42 million, state-of-the-art facility on N. Front Street this fall. The move culminates years of organizing by Youth United for Change for a new building.

Willard Elementary is also getting a long-awaited new facility this fall. A handful of other schools have completed major renovations and additions including Franklin Learning Center, Lankenau and Motivation High Schools, as well as Barratt and Bluford, Bridesburg, Kearny, and Penrose Elementaries.

Contact Notebook Managing Editor Wendy Harris at [wendyh@thenotebook.org](mailto:wendyh@thenotebook.org).

## Nonprofit Technology Resources

Philadelphia's First & Only Computer Thrift Store



★ **Computers from \$89**  
★ **WE REPAIR COMPUTERS!**  
★ **3-Year Guarantee on Desktops**

Monday - Friday  
10am - 6pm

**1524 Brandywine Street**  
1 Block North of 15th & Spring Garden Sts.

**215-564-6686**

Visit us online at [ntrweb.org](http://ntrweb.org)

**Computer Systems Laptops Accessories Computer Repair**

## Good Shepherd Mediation Program

Honors

Vai Sikahema

Marsha Levick, Esq. and Paul J. Fink, M.D.

at its

### 4th Annual Shepherds Of Peace Dinner

October 20, 2010 - 6 P.M. • Union League  
Adult Tickets - \$100 • Ads and Sponsorships Still Available

**Call - 215.843.5413**

GSMP is a 501(c)(3) organization

DONATE - [www.PhillyMediators.org](http://www.PhillyMediators.org) United Way #795



SEE THE NEW EXHIBIT

# A Green Idea!

A CREATIVE ENVIRONMENT, FOR A GREENER TOMORROW!

The Crayola Factory  
A Hands-on Discovery Center

NATIONAL CANAL MUSEUM

30 CENTRE SQUARE • 610.515.8000 • [CRAYOLAFACTORY.COM](http://CRAYOLAFACTORY.COM) • [CANALS.ORG](http://CANALS.ORG)

## \$25 GIFT CERTIFICATE

FOR THE CRAYOLA STORE WITH SCHOOL GROUP RESERVATION  
CANNOT BE COMBINED WITH OTHER OFFERS • CODE: PNOTEB • VALID ON DAY OF RESERVATION

**KIPP Philadelphia Schools**  
a team & family

**CONGRATULATES** music teacher Julius Brown for winning a \$10,000 Excellence in Teaching Award

To Mr. Brown and the many other dedicated teachers at our 4 schools, we say **THANK YOU** and keep up the great work helping students climb the mountain to college!

**KPS**  
KIPP Philadelphia Schools

If you are interested in working alongside great teachers like Mr. Brown, please visit [www.kippphiladelphia.org](http://www.kippphiladelphia.org) or contact us at: 215 294 8596

# High expectations for a turnaround at 13 schools

by Benjamin Herold

The most-watched changes in the District this fall will take place at the seven Renaissance Schools and six Promise Academies representing the first round of Superintendent Arlene Ackerman's plan to transform failing schools across the city.

Ackerman chose six low-performing schools last spring to become District-managed Promise Academies. At each, all staff were force-transferred and invited to reapply for their positions, with no more than 50 percent of teachers eligible to be rehired. Promise Academies will offer a longer school day and year, use the Corrective Reading and Math curriculum, expand afterschool and enrichment activities, and have additional support staff.

In May, seven of the eight remaining Renaissance-eligible schools were turned over to local charter school operators. Mastery Charter was awarded three schools, Universal Companies two, and ASPIRA and Young Scholars Charter School one each.

All Renaissance Schools will have non-union teaching staff, longer school days and years, new student uniforms, and upgraded facilities. Some of the charter operators will implement new curricula, new disciplinary policies, new support and enrichment programs, and new parent and community outreach efforts.

At Stetson Middle School, ASPIRA has invested over half a million dollars in new furniture and equipment and is focused on revamping the school's disciplinary procedures and supports for teachers.

"When [students] walk into the classroom on the first day and they have a new chair, a new desk, a new computer and teachers who want to teach, I think they are going to be shocked," said Alfredo Calderon, executive director of ASPIRA.

Stetson and the other six Renaissance Schools, as well as four of the six Promise Academies, are among 27 low-performing Philadelphia schools that will split \$51.9 million in federal school improvement grant funds.

The only Renaissance-eligible school not paired with a provider was West Philadelphia High, where a contentious matching process was ultimately aborted by the District. That school will still see plenty of change. Thirty-nine percent of teachers are new, and Ackerman replaced Principal Saliyah Cruz with a duo – retired District veteran Ozzie Wright and longtime principal LaVerne Wiley.

West is expected to receive additional supports this year and participate in the second cohort of Renaissance School implementation in 2011.

## Turnaround schools 2010: Who's in charge at...?

**Bluford, Daroff:** Universal Companies

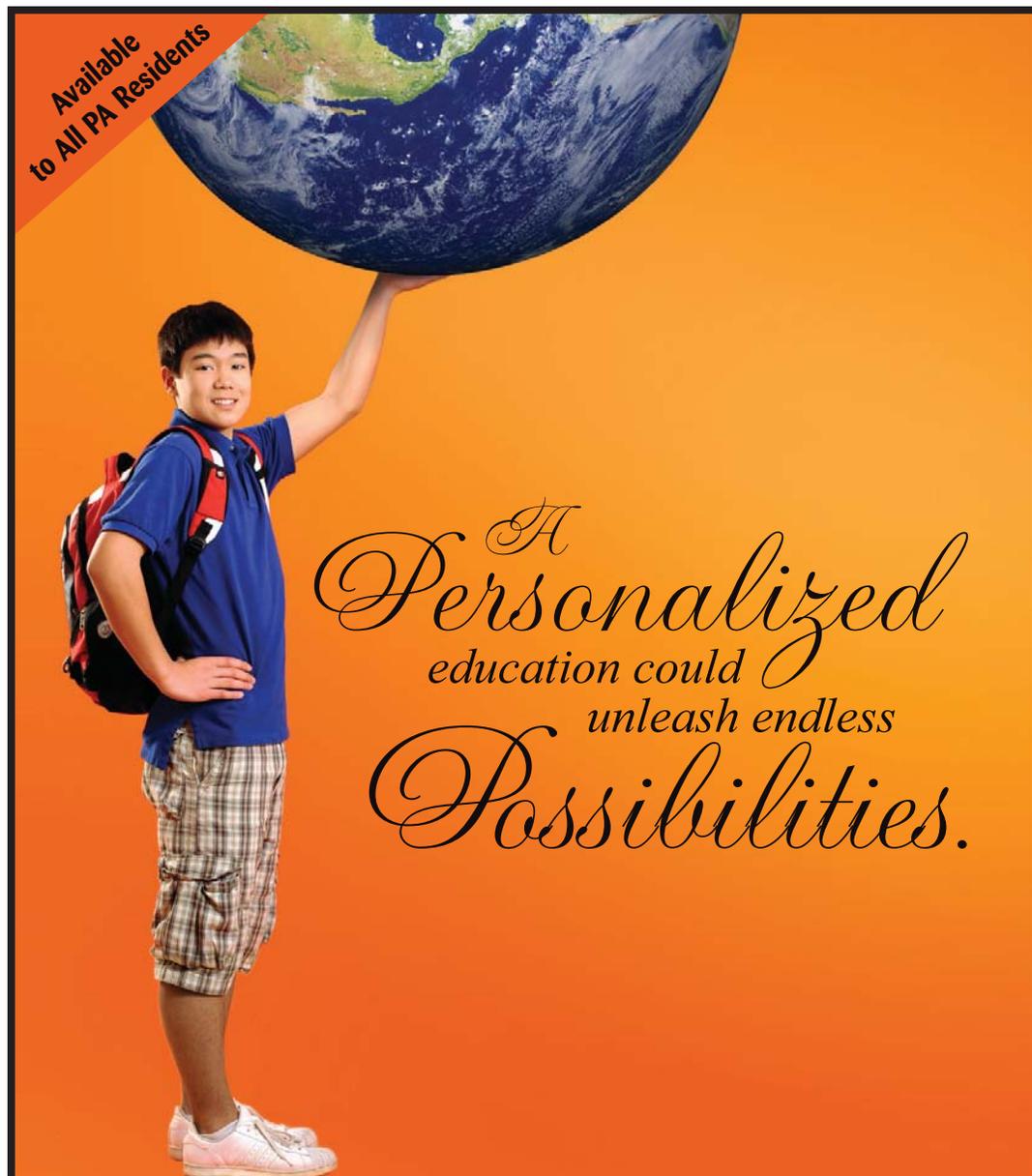
**Douglass:** Young Scholars Charter School

**Harrity, Mann, Smedley:** Mastery Charter Schools

**Stetson:** ASPIRA of PA

**Ethel Allen, Clemente, Dunbar, Potter-Thomas, University City,**

**Vaux:** School District Promise Academy program



Available to All PA Residents

*A Personalized education could unleash endless Possibilities.*

## We'll bring out the best in your child.

Commonwealth Connections Academy's tuition-free, full-time, online public cyber school program for grades K-12 uses personalized plans, one-on-one attention from certified teachers, and leading-edge technology tools. Bring out the best in your child. Find out more today.

**Call 800-382-6019, or visit [ConnectionsAcademy.com/CCA](http://ConnectionsAcademy.com/CCA).**



Commonwealth Connections Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association of Colleges & Schools.

## Attend a free information session.

**Tuesday, September 7, 6:30 PM & Tuesday, September 21, 6:30 PM**  
 Commonwealth Connections Academy  
 2085 North 63rd Street  
 Philadelphia, PA 19151

# A Summer Bridge at Bartram

Students explore alternative energy, gardening and more, while getting a taste of the expectations for 9th graders.

by Monika Zaleska and Brad Gibson

In Mrs. Foster's Alternative Energy class, groups of five or six students huddle around pizza boxes swathed in tin foil. On the floor sits a heat lamp. On the board is a chart of temperature readings. These, Foster explains, are solar ovens. Later, they will roast hot dogs and marshmallows inside them, the temperature reaching well over 100 degrees.

Down the hall, the Healthy Lifestyles group is filming its cooking show. They rub raw chicken in olive oil, but not before hands are washed. The camera shuts off for a minute and a pre-cooked filet emerges from the oven, is drizzled with dressing and

garnished with almonds. *Bon appetit!*

The Summer Bridge program at Bartram High School is in full swing, warming up students for high school.

This six-week program for rising 9th graders is a growing component of the District's Summer Learning and More (SLAM) initiative.

Summer programs are a priority in Superintendent Arlene Ackerman's *Imagine 2014* strategic plan, and were ramped up this year, with 117 schools involved and a budget increase from \$20 million to \$47 million. SLAM provides reinforcement in core subjects as well as enrichment for District students from pre-K up.

This year, every rising 9th grader in the District was invited to participate in the Summer Bridge program to smooth their transition to high school. More than one in three joined in – a total of

4,600 students at 29 high schools, according to District numbers. Last year, a less ambitious Summer Bridge program enrolled 1,300 students.

To achieve this growth, participating schools started recruiting students much earlier, with phone calls and information fairs.

Principals of Empowerment Schools, which are among the District's lowest-performing, made a strong effort to urge the incoming 9th graders to participate. The District required Empowerment Schools to have 75 percent student participation in SLAM.

This year's Summer Bridge boasted an hour each day of counseling for all students



Brad Gibson & Monika Zaleska  
Superintendent Ackerman kicked off this year's expanded Summer Learning and More (SLAM) initiative at Arthur Elementary.

on making the transition to high school, and then four hours of either remedial or accelerated academics. This was followed by 90 minutes of enrichment in the afternoons.

At schools like Bartram that receive federal Department of Labor grants earmarked for programs to improve climate, the Bridge program was extended a week, with the extra days focused on college awareness and trips.

Tanya Ruley, who oversees the Department of Labor grant program, said the administration hopes students will learn that school is fun and will build their academic skill set and relationships with future teachers.

The idea is to inspire and prepare students for what could be the toughest year of their schooling so far.

"Ninth grade is really the make-or-break year for students," said Ruley. "Typically if a student isn't successful in 9th grade, their chances for dropout significantly increase."

For students and teachers, the enrichment portion was definitely the draw.

At Bartram, this enrichment had a "green" focus; accelerated students studied Alternative Energy or Healthy Lifestyles, and remedial students studied gardening, beautifying the campus by planting a garden with fruits, vegetables, and flowers.

"When we started this program, the thrill was that I got to help decide the curriculum. There's just no room for that kind of project-based learning [during the school year]," said Summer Bridge science teacher Marie Searce, who has a Ph.D. in biochemistry and teaches chemistry at Bartram during the year.

(continued on page 7)



## FREE Art Making Workshop for you and your family!



Come be a part of an exciting creative new family art workshop designed to enhance your artistic skills and create inspiring projects with your family.

The Family Arts Academy at the Pennsylvania Academy of the Fine Arts has an abundance of exhilarating family oriented activities for everyone on **Sundays at 2 p.m. and it's FREE for students and their families in the Philadelphia School District. First workshop is October 3.**

Our exciting workshops will include meeting **Producer/Rapper Kwamé** and **keyboard player Kamal** from **The Roots**. You can meet **Kwamé** on October 24, 2010 and participate in the "Rhythmic Art Workshop". On November 14, 2010, meet the talented keyboard player – "**Kamal**" from **The Roots** and participate with your family making fun artistic instruments. There are 30 workshops (12 in the fall semester and 18 in the winter/spring semester) for you to enjoy.

Other workshops include: animal drawing from a live Horse, Street Art, Animation Toys, Bookmaking, Family Portraits, and much more.

Bring your family to PAFA and discover the beauty and excitement of America's first art museum.

For more information and the workshop schedule, view our website [www.pafa.org/faa](http://www.pafa.org/faa) or call 215-972-2022 to be added to our mailing list.

Family Arts Academy at PAFA is supported by major grants from Philadelphia's Children First Fund; Engage 2020 Innovation Grants Program, which is supported by The Wallace Foundation; The Pew Charitable Trusts and The Philadelphia Foundation, and is a program of the Greater Philadelphia Cultural Alliance's research and marketing initiative Engage 2020, and The Victory Foundation. During the pilot phase, the program has received additional support from the Christian R. and Mary F. Lindback Foundation and from the School District of Philadelphia.

118 N. Broad Street, Philadelphia [www.pafa.org/faa](http://www.pafa.org/faa)

### Visit the La Salle University Art Museum

- Free in-gallery and outreach lessons are available for K-12 classes. Reservations required.
- All lessons are age-appropriate and are designed to complement Pennsylvania State Academic Standards.
- Limited transportation funds are available.

For more information or to schedule a lesson for your class, call us at 215.991.3680 or visit our Web site [www.lasalle.edu/museum](http://www.lasalle.edu/museum).



# spotlight/choosingahighschool

## Summer Bridge

(continued from page 6)

But with two hours each assigned for math and reading, the five-hour block of scripted curriculum each day was taxing, according to students and teachers.

Scarce said she and others were disappointed when the District changed the schedule in favor of these long periods, cutting the enrichment period from two hours to an hour and a half.

But teachers sought to remedy this imbalance by incorporating enrichment activities into reading and math.

Basing her lesson around the recent Gulf oil disaster, Scarce had her math class calculate how much oil it would take to fill up Bartram High. Tara Carter, who teaches 9th grade English during the year, assigned articles about the spill during reading.

Students couldn't get enough of the project-based work. "I would like more hands-on activities where I could be creative.... I would also add art classes," said Jordan Yarborough, a student in the Alternative Energy group, who will attend the Charter High School for Architecture and Design.

All Summer Bridge students took pre- and post-tests measuring thinking skills. They had midterms and finals and had to receive passing grades and no more than three absences to earn the

half-credit promised to them.

The motivation for some students was not just catching up or getting ahead; 83 students at the Bartram program were paid for coming to Summer Bridge. A federally funded stipend enabled students to attend who would otherwise have to work a summer job. Most Summer Bridge students qualified for the funding.

But paid or not, students were learning how to deal not just with high-school-level academics, but also with the new expectations and procedures that accompany the transition to the upper grades.

In Carter's accelerated reading class, there was frequent homework as well as high expectations.

Carter explained, "I made it clear to them, 'Some of you are going to be in my class next year, and this is how my class

is run.'" Her class rose to that expectation, she said. "This group of kids really excelled. They are on task, on time."

In the first period of the day focusing on the high school transition, students met with counselors and teachers to address issues of behavior, good habits, learning, and diversity. The District used Stephen Covey's *7 Habits of Highly Effective People for Teens* to direct these discussions.

"When I came here, I was very hyperactive," said Yarborough, who dreams of becoming an architect. "But then I saw the older kids at summer school who are quiet in the hall, and I

realized I had to change my behavior."

The hope, however, that students would begin to develop relationships with their future grade teachers proved somewhat unrealistic because the program was not offered at every high school. Many of Bartram's Summer Bridge students are heading to other schools in the fall.

And, explained MeiMei Kwong, turnaround principal at Bartram, "Because Summer Bridge was extended another week this year and the days are longer, most of the 9th grade teachers didn't want to participate in the program."

Despite some shortcomings, students said that Summer Bridge has given them a definite advantage over those who opted out.

Yarborough admitted, "If there was no Summer Bridge, I would have just watched TV and slept the whole summer away."

The program also got students thinking about academic success even beyond high school. The last week included trips to the University of Pennsylvania, Temple University, and Community College of Philadelphia. At the end of the week, students were rewarded with trips to the National Aquarium, Bartram's Garden, and the Statue of Liberty.

Dieliah Franklin, who will attend Parkway Center City in the fall, was most excited about the trip to New York but appreciated the opportunity to visit Temple. "If I was at home watching TV, I don't think I would be thinking about college," she said.

The writers were summer interns at the Notebook.

**The idea is to inspire and prepare students for what could be the toughest year of their schooling so far.**

## MÜTTER MUSEUM

The College of Physicians of Philadelphia

Arrange a different field trip this Fall!

*Visit the Mutter Museum!  
Add a Mutter Lesson to your  
tour of the Museum:*

Body Modification

•  
Germ Wars

•  
Bone Detectives

•  
Conjoined Twins  
(Together Forever...?)

•  
Comparative Anatomy of  
Vertebrates

•  
The Science Behind  
the Sideshow

*All classes meet multiple  
Pa. Education Standards.*



*Is the Mutter Museum right for your  
class? Find out with a free Teacher's Pass.*

Contact Marcy Engleman at  
[mengleman@collegeofphysicians.org](mailto:mengleman@collegeofphysicians.org)  
or call (215) 399-2266

[WWW.COLLEGEOPHYSICIANS.ORG](http://WWW.COLLEGEOPHYSICIANS.ORG)

## Stronger Families. Brighter Futures.

### FREE Parenting Support & Education

*Turning Points for Children offers several services to Philadelphia's children & families, including:*

- 12 Week Parenting & Support Program for Teen Mothers
- 12 Week Parenting & Support Program for Adult Parents/Caregivers
- Families And Schools Together (FAST) Program
- Personalized Support Services (Pre-ARS Program)

*Some Participation Benefits May Include:*

- Meeting other parents who are dealing with similar situations
- Strengthening family bonds and promoting increased success in school
- Getting linked to important resources like medical and legal services
- Learning about the many ways to be good to yourself and your children

Call (215) 875-8200 or email  
[info@turningpointsforchildren.org](mailto:info@turningpointsforchildren.org)  
for more information

[www.turningpointsforchildren.org](http://www.turningpointsforchildren.org)



# Valedictorians find success despite school-choice struggles

In high school selection, the opportunities can be elusive.

by Monika Zaleska

Janette Rivera, the 2010 valedictorian of Kensington High School of Business and Finance, knows the difference between a good school and one that is not so good. A Philly native, she left the city at age seven for Massachusetts, only to return just in time for high school.

"Stuff we learned in two months there, we learn in six months here [in Philadelphia]," she said, sitting outside the skyscraper housing Independence Blue Cross/Blue Shield, where for the last three summers she has interned for its CEO, Joseph A. Frick.

Rivera stayed home for nearly a year after her family returned to Philadelphia. She had trouble enrolling anywhere while her family sorted out issues, and got no information about high school options.

"They gave my mom a rough time just getting me into Kensington. I said, 'You know what, I'll just go there,'" said Rivera.

There have never been more high school choices in Philadelphia. Not even counting charters, the number of public high schools has doubled in the past decade. While some new schools long existed as programs within schools, most of the additional schools represent completely

new opportunities.

Many students are never able to access those opportunities in what has become a complex application and admissions process. But interviews with eight valedictorians at non-elite high schools found that while choice eluded them, success did not.

Even at Kensington Business, a neighborhood high school where only 37 percent of students graduated on time in 2009, there are students like Rivera, who received a full scholarship to Connecticut College for this fall.



Janette Rivera

That success, however, does not mitigate the real problems with Philadelphia's hierarchy of high school options, in which motivated, high-achieving students can get shortchanged educationally if they don't have access to the right information and lack good advocates.

A series of policy briefs released this year by Research for Action showed that while 70 percent of students seek to go somewhere other than their neighborhood school, only 45 percent of those who apply ever enroll in one of their choices. Neighborhood schools, which must accept all students in their feeder area, are typically characterized by high teacher and student turnover, a large special needs enrollment,



Bruchette Myrtill

fewer challenging courses, and low graduation rates.

"High schools are selecting students rather than students choosing schools, robbing students and families of the agency that school choice is supposed to provide," argued the first of these briefs, called *Context, Conditions and Consequences: Freshman Year*

*Transition in Philadelphia.*

Of the students who entered high school in 2006, 57 percent graduated on time in 2010, the District reports. But

graduation rates vary widely by school, from nearly 100 percent at some special admission high schools like Masterman to less than 30 percent at some neighborhood schools.

This means that the even the most diligent students who lose out in the choice process can enter an environment in which failure and dropping out, rather than excellence, represent the norm.

Many, like Rivera, learn to make the best of it.

"I had an internal motivation from

(continued on page 9)

## The Teachers Institute of Philadelphia (TIP)

A partnership of the University of Pennsylvania and the School District of Philadelphia

[www.tip.sas.upenn.edu](http://www.tip.sas.upenn.edu)

free curriculum units and lesson plans  
free professional development seminars

- Academic topics • Led by Penn scholars • Act-48 Credits •
- Starting January 2011 •

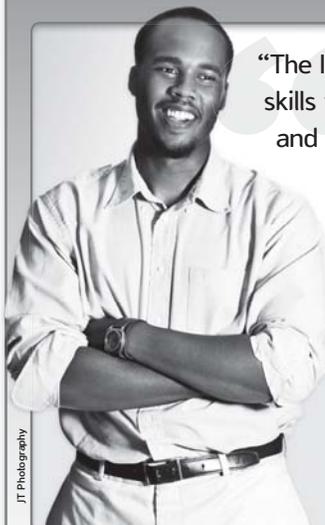
for information: 215-746-6176  
alanjl@pobox.upenn.edu



[www.iirp.org/nb](http://www.iirp.org/nb)  
610.807.9221

Classes held in:

Woodlyn/Philadelphia, Lansdale & Bethlehem



"The IIRP has given me essential skills to use in my work with kids, and in every aspect of my life."

— Omar Singletary, Counselor, West Philadelphia High School

**Master's Degree Programs** for Educators  
Optional 1-Year *FastTrack* Master's Degree  
**NEW** Summer 1-Week 3-Credit Intro. Course

Also offering:  
• onsite school training  
• books & videos

Restorative practices helped West Philadelphia High School reduce serious incidents by 75%.

Try a  
tuition-free  
class!

Approved PA ACT 48 Provider

The International Institute for Restorative Practices

Helping educators survive and thrive in today's challenging classrooms.

## MOORE COLLEGE OF ART & DESIGN

Graduate Studies at Moore

Change Your Life  
Make Your Mark



Application Deadline:  
February 1, 2011

## MA in ART EDUCATION With an Emphasis in Special Populations

- Critically examine existing art education practices
- Expand skills, resources and strategies to strengthen teaching and learning art skills
- Professional field placement
- Annual symposium with regional and national experts in art and education

33 credits: 4 semesters or 15 months; 2 summers with six-week intensives; 1 weekend intensive a month, September through May, plus 7 Sundays in the fall semester

Free Symposium: Saturday, November 13, 2010

### Honoring Every Child's Expressive Voice

A symposium on the best teaching and learning practices for children with special needs. Featuring Keynote Speaker Peter Geisser, former teacher, Rhode Island School for the Deaf and currently president of National Art Education Association Special Needs Issues Group.

Graduate Studies  
Moore College of Art & Design  
20th Street and The Parkway  
Philadelphia, PA 19103

gradstudies@moore.edu  
215.965.4016

For other Graduate Programs at Moore  
visit [www.moore.edu](http://www.moore.edu)

# spotlight/choosingahighschool

## Valedictorians

(continued from page 8)

the age of twelve,” she said. “Education became a refuge for me. Deep down, I knew education would take me far.”

Of the eight valedictorians interviewed, most had spent the majority of their academic career outside the District. Five of the eight were immigrants or first generation Americans.

One arrived in Philadelphia from West Africa in the middle of winter, and stepped out into the snowy city for the first time in a sundress. Two were limited in their choices because they needed to enroll in English for Speakers of Other Language (ESOL) programs.

Bruchette Myrttil emigrated from Haiti in 2006 and spent two years in high school in Tennessee before moving to Philadelphia. A month into classes, due to paperwork problems, she entered Olney High School as a junior.

As she walked through the metal detectors for the first time, she thought to herself, “Are we going to prison?”

By the time Myrttil discovered selective admission schools like Central, she was told they had no room.

After more paperwork, Myrttil was transferred to Roxborough High for AP and honors classes that were nonexistent at Olney. But even there, she said, classes were taught “straight out of the book.”

Myrttil, who is headed to Elizabethtown College in Lancaster on scholarship and wants to be a doctor, understood she had been put at a disadvantage. “I wish someone had told me about schools like Masterman and Central. They didn’t tell me about my options,” she said.

Myrttil and Rivera, who arrived after eighth grade, never had a shot in the high school admissions game. Asia Norton, on the other hand, had support, but was still a casualty.

She was encouraged by her teachers at Clymer Elementary to apply to Masterman and Imhotep Charter, among others. But her standardized test scores didn’t pass muster for the most selective schools, and she lost out in the charter lottery. So she ended up at William Penn, which in recent years has graduated fewer than half its students.

She finished first in the 2010 graduating class and is attending Millersville University.

Norton’s break came when she was accepted into Philadelphia Futures, which recruits students primarily from neighborhood schools for afterschool enrichment, mentoring, and college preparation. There she met others who shared her college dreams. This summer, she took classes to boost her skills at the Futures-sponsored Drexel University Summer Institute.

“My high school didn’t get me to the level that I should be at [for college], but this is my back-up plan, to push me a little further,” said Norton.

Monique Pennington also had a rocky ride before ending up as valedictorian at Mastbaum Vocational High School.

Pennington applied to several citywide

admission schools. She chose Mastbaum because she wanted to study cosmetology.

Subsequently, however, she found out that it was no longer offered. Instead, she concentrated on nursing and is headed to Community College of Philadelphia. She plans to get her nursing degree from Drexel University.

Pennington spent eight years at Ludlow Elementary, a District Empowerment School due to its poor performance. She had a counselor who helped her with applications, but her crucial 7th and 8th grade years were spent with substitute teachers. “If we had a steady teacher, we would have learned more” and had a better shot at selective schools, she said.

Theara Lanh, who emigrated from Cambodia at the beginning of 8th grade, had few choices because of his limited English.

“When I came, I didn’t know what was good so I just went where my teachers told me,” said Lanh, who graduated from Samuel Fels High. Teachers at Grover Washington Middle School directed him there for the school’s ESOL program.

“Good or better schools don’t have ESOL,” said Lanh, while at Fels one in 10 students is an English language learner.

The RFA briefs show that ELLs and special education students are underrepresented at the most selective schools; at Masterman and Central, for instance, the numbers are below 1 percent. Overall, Whites, Asians, girls, and higher-income students fare better in the choice process.

When RFA released its reports, Superintendent Arlene Ackerman seemed ready to take action. In a statement she said she agreed with most findings and had “already identified the revamping of the high school admission process as a priority.”

Soon after, administrators were seeking preliminary feedback on a point system that gave weight in admissions to zip code, income level, and diversity, along with traditional academic measures. But

when the draft became public and parents with children in selective high schools protested, Ackerman said that she had “no intention” of changing the process.

Lanh was never able to transfer to a selective school because his English wasn’t good enough. But that didn’t stop him from taking Calculus 1 and 2 through a program at Community College, graduating as Fels’ valedictorian, and being admitted to Penn State University. He was motivated by his mother, who works in a meat factory and doesn’t want that for him. “She always told me I had to study hard,” he said.

Lanh, like the others, demonstrates that being a valedictorian means overcoming obstacles and surpassing expectations.



Theara Lanh



Monique Pennington



Asia Norton

Rivera made Kensington Business what she wanted it to be, reaching out to Principal Eileen Maicon-Weissman for support and fighting to get the school to offer higher-level classes.

Norton explained, “I don’t need to go to this [or that] school to make something of myself. I can go to any school and make something of myself. It’s all on me.”

Myrttil described her academic career in Philadelphia, dotted with dramas such as evacuation of Olney for fear of an airborne toxin, “a preparation for life.”

“It’s not always going to be quiet and calm,” she said.

Monika Zaleska, a Swarthmore College student, interned at the Notebook this summer. Photos by Brad Gibson, Monika Zaleska and Jamie Raver.

### Hungry children in your class?



The Food Stamp Hotline can help.  
215-430-0556

### Temple University Diversity Education Programs

- Graduate Certificate in Diversity Facilitation
- Diversity Trainings, Workshops, Symposia and Conferences
- Upcoming Events:
  - *Theater of the Oppressed*—9/24-26/2010
  - *Engaging Diversity, Keeping It Real—An Introduction to Intergroup Dialogue*—10/15/2010
  - *Undoing Racism Workshop*—10/29-31/2010

Office of Institutional Diversity,  
Equity, Advocacy and Leadership  
[www.temple.edu/ideal](http://www.temple.edu/ideal)

Available this fall from the ACLU of Pennsylvania...

## Know Your Rights

A Handbook for Public School Students in Pennsylvania

Available September 2010  
To order: [www.aclupa.org/yourrights](http://www.aclupa.org/yourrights)  
or call 215-592-1513 x123



# Preguntas comunes: Cómo seleccionar una escuela superior

## ¿Dónde empiezo?

Habla con los adultos en tu vida, que incluyen maestros, consejeros y tus padres o encargados. Consigue una copia de la guía de escuelas intermedias del Distrito, en la cual explica cómo aprovechar al máximo los años de intermedia y determinar qué cosas te interesan. Luego, consulta el directorio de escuelas superiores del Distrito, lee esta guía y reúnete con tu consejero. También debes asistir a la *High School Expo* que se llevará a cabo el 1-3 de octubre para los estudiantes de séptimo y octavo grado. Las solicitudes de los estudiantes de octavo grado se tienen que entregar a más tardar el 29 de octubre.

## ¿Cuándo debo empezar a pensar en las opciones de escuela superior?

No más tarde del comienzo de séptimo grado. Las escuelas superiores toman en cuenta la asistencia, las calificaciones y las puntuaciones de exámenes desde séptimo grado cuando van a determinar quién está cualificado para admisión.

## ¿Cuál es la diferencia entre una escuela con admisión especial y una escuela con admisión abierta a toda la ciudad?

Las escuelas con admisión especial generalmente tienen una puntuación mínima de examen para entrar y requisitos bien específicos de calificaciones y asistencia. Las escuelas con admisión abierta a toda la ciudad le dan menos peso a las puntuaciones de examen pero de todos modos tienen estándares en cuanto a calificaciones, asistencia y disciplina.

## ¿Cuáles escuelas superiores usan una lotería para decidir a quién aceptar?

Las escuelas con admisión abierta a toda la ciudad ponen los nombres de todos los estudiantes que cumplen las calificaciones básicas en una lista y luego les ofrecen admisión de acuerdo con los resultados de una lotería. Las escuelas *chárter* también usan las loterías.

## ¿Entonces es posible que no pueda entrar en la escuela que quiero aunque cualifique?

Sí.

## ¿Y con las escuelas de admisión especial pasa lo mismo?

Las escuelas de admisión especial no usan una lotería, pero generalmente tienen requisitos de admisión más estrictos y sólo aceptan a quienes los cumplan.

## ¿Qué hago si quiero ir a una escuela *chárter*?

Muchas escuelas *chárter* tienen solicitudes detalladas y fechas límites antes de las loterías. Si te interesa una escuela *chárter*, debes comunicarte con esa escuela directamente lo más pronto posible.

## ¿Cómo puedo averiguar los requisitos de admisión de una escuela?

Tu consejero debe estar familiarizado con los requisitos de admisión de cada escuela. Esta guía y el directorio de escuelas superiores del Distrito también incluyen esa información.

## Es difícil entrar en algunas escuelas. ¿Debo pasarlas por alto si no cumpla los requisitos exactos?

No. A menudo admiten estudiantes que no cumplen con todos los criterios. Los principales de esas escuelas selectivas buscan recomendaciones de los consejeros y principales de las escuelas de los solicitantes. Las entrevistas también hacen mucha diferencia.

## Ciertas escuelas tienen muchos solicitantes. ¿Cómo puedo mejorar mis probabilidades?

Hay escuelas en la ciudad que no son tan conocidas pero que tienen programas similares. Chequéelas.

## ¿Debo visitar la escuela como parte del proceso de admisión?

Una visita es lo más recomendable para ver cómo se "siente" una escuela. Algunas escuelas permiten que un solicitante pase el día o parte del día con uno de sus estudiantes. Algunas requieren entrevistas o audiciones. Pregúntale a tu consejero.

## Yo quiero asistir a la escuela superior de mi comunidad. ¿Esas escuelas tienen programas especiales?

Muchas escuelas superiores de la comunidad cuentan con programas especiales en áreas como ocupaciones de salud, artes culinarias, justicia criminal, comunicaciones, gráficas y tecnología automotriz. El directorio de escuelas superiores del Distrito incluye un resumen por área de interés que muestra dónde están ubicados esos programas.

## ¿Puedo solicitar admisión a la escuela de otra comunidad?

Sí. Ten en cuenta que los estudiantes que no viven en esa área serán seleccionados por lotería solamente después de haber acomodado a todos los estudiantes que sí viven ahí.

## ¿Los estudiantes con IEPs pueden solicitar admisión a las escuelas superiores selectivas?

A todos los estudiantes se les alienta a solicitar cualquier escuela superior que les interese y para la cual cumplan las calificaciones básicas. La decisión del tribunal en el caso *LeGare* requiere que el Distrito mantenga un porcentaje mínimo de estudiantes con programas individualizados de educación (IEPs) en las escuelas selectivas. Hay loterías separadas para los estudiantes de educación especial y los que están aprendiendo inglés en las escuelas con lotería.

## ¿Qué pasa con los estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés (ELLs)?

A los estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés (ELLs) también se les exhorta solicitar admisión a las escuelas selectivas. La decisión del tribunal en el caso *Y.S.* requiere que el Distrito mantenga un porcentaje mínimo de estudiantes que están aprendiendo inglés en las escuelas selectivas y prohíbe que las escuelas les nieguen admisión a los ELLs cualificados alegando falta de servicios.

Traducción por Mildred S. Martínez.

# Consejeros ofrecen asesoría al solicitar la escuela superior

*Marion McGovern, consejera de la Escuela Intermedia Grover Washington, Olney:*

Hay mucha competencia para entrar a las escuelas. Nosotros tratamos de lograr que sean lo más realistas posible.

Comenzamos en sexto grado. Nuestro lema es que séptimo grado es el grado que cuenta. Es como ser junior en escuela superior. Ahí es que debes sacar las mejores calificaciones, las puntuaciones de examen más altas, y asegurar que llegas a la escuela a tiempo.

Tratamos de ser lo más honestos posible con los estudiantes. En el caso de los centros vocacionales, es cuestión de calificaciones y asistencia; ellos generalmente no se fijan en las puntuaciones de examen. Pero los estudiantes necesitan saber que [para los centros vocacionales y las escuelas con admisión abierta a toda la ciudad] hay una lotería. Es posible que no los seleccionen aunque cualifiquen.

*Julie Feldman, consejera, Escuela Elemental McCall, Society Hill:*

Les decimos que dediquen mucho tiempo a buscar. Vayan a la feria de escuela superior. Piensen mucho sobre qué les interesa y usen la escuela superior para explorar esos intereses.

Les decimos a los estudiantes que seleccionen una escuela difícil de entrar, un par que sabemos que pueden entrar, y una que los aceptará fácilmente. Es como solicitar admisión a la universidad.

Si los expedientes del estudiante no son tan bonitos como quisiéramos, le decimos que escriba una carta explicando qué pasó, lo que está haciendo al respecto, lo que espera aportar a la escuela y lo que espera recibir de la escuela. Le conseguimos cartas de recomendación y trabajamos en sus destrezas de entrevista.

*Maxine Coker, consejera, Escuela Elemental Henry, Mount Airy:*

Tratamos de guiar a los estudiantes de manera que obtengan la información necesaria para tomar decisiones informadas. Si les interesa cierta actividad



Harvey Finkle

Maxine Coker

o deporte extracurricular, necesitan investigar si las escuelas superiores que quieren ofrecen esas cosas. ¿Qué idiomas enseñan? ¿Tienen clases AP?

Si los estudiantes quieren programas vocacionales, tienen que investigarlos. A veces tenemos estudiantes que quieren solicitar admisión a la Saul [una escuela superior de agricultura] pero dicen que no les gustan los animales ni las plantas. ¿Eso es buena combinación?!

*Heather Rodgers, consejera, Escuela Intermedia Woodrow Wilson, noreste de Filadelfia:*

Yo les diría a los padres que se comuniquen con el consejero al comienzo de 8vo grado. Los estudiantes necesitan el apoyo y la ayuda de los padres para pasar por esto; los padres deben llamar para saber cuándo será la sesión de información de la escuela. Nosotros enviamos una carta al hogar, pero a veces se pueden agobiar con todo el papeleo que reciben.

Hay algunas escuelas muy conocidas, pero es posible que los estudiantes no sepan de otras que tienen programas similares.

Les decimos a los estudiantes que tomen en cuenta dónde viven y cuánto tiempo les va a tomar llegar a la escuela.

Traducción por Mildred S. Martínez.

LÉALO EN LA WEB  
www.thenotebook.org

# Moldeando la experiencia de la escuela superior

**Las actividades extracurriculares son importantes para muchos al escoger la escuela.**

por Brad Gibson

Cuando Britney White (ahora senior en la Escuela Superior Kensington para las Artes Creativas y Representativas – Kensington CAPA) estaba decidiendo a cuál escuela superior asistir, no consideró los programas académicos, el porcentaje de admitidos a la universidad, las actividades extracurriculares ni tampoco ninguno de los demás factores que muchos estudiantes consideran al tomar su decisión.

Ella admite que decidió ir a Kensington CAPA porque su hermana ya había sido estudiante de esa escuela.

Sin embargo, durante sus primeros dos años en la escuela se dio cuenta de que algo que había pasado por alto en su búsqueda se había convertido en un aspecto crítico de su experiencia en la escuela superior.

“Honestamente, lo que hizo que yo quisiera quedarme en la escuela fue todo lo extracurricular. Si la escuela no tuviera nada que ofrecerme aparte de las clases, creo que hubiese querido transferirme”, dijo White.

White empezó a

cantar, a bailar en el equipo de baile Step Team, participó en el *drumline*, y empezó a trabajar en el capítulo de *Youth United for Change* (YUC) de la escuela. También exploró el club de cine, el consejo de estudiantes y el grupo de teatro.

Para algunos estudiantes, el acceso a actividades extracurriculares es el atractivo que distingue a una escuela sobre otra. Para algunos como White, es lo que finalmente los motiva a quedarse en la escuela y termina definiendo su experiencia en la escuela superior.

Algunas escuelas superiores han creado una reputación por ciertas actividades, por ejemplo, la Escuela Superior Chárter Imhotep Institute por sus excelentes equipos deportivos, especialmente el baloncesto de varones, y la Kensington CAPA por las artes representativas.

Otras escuelas como la Masterman, que tiene más de 30 clubes y organizaciones de servicio, tienen programas excepcionales en muchas áreas.

Por otro lado hay escuelas superiores que no ofrecen programas de substancia, dejando a los estudiantes hambrientos por mucho más de lo que se ofrece dentro del salón de clases.

Las guías de escuela superior como mucho dan detalles limitados sobre los programas específicos, y a veces no todo lo que está en el papel es real. Los estudiantes que no investigan antes de solicitar y sus familias podrían quedar decepcionados cuando empieza el año escolar.

El plan estratégico Imagine 2014 dice que el Distrito asegurará que “todos los estudiantes tengan acceso a programas completos de enriquecimiento que incluyan arte, música y atletismo durante el día,

después de la escuela, durante los veranos y también los sábados.”

Durante una presentación a la comunidad en julio, la Superintendente Arlene Ackerman y el Alcalde Nutter presentaron un informe del progreso del plan, prometiendo ofrecer un programa de artes visuales y representativas en cada escuela superior con currículo general.

El Distrito abrió un Centro de Talento Regional para baile, arte y música en la Escuela Superior Martin Luther King en marzo y tiene planes de abrir otro en Audenried este otoño.

Justin Carter, graduado de la clase de 2010 de la Escuela Superior West Philadelphia, también habló de la importancia de las actividades extracurriculares. Carter comenzó la escuela superior en la Communications Tech pero se salió dos semanas después porque sintió que la escuela no le ofrecía mucho.

“No tener los programas extracurriculares adecuados verdaderamente afecta a los estudiantes porque no tienen la habilidad para expresarse... para canalizar sus energías en algo que disfrutan y que pueden hacer bien”, dijo Carter. “Estos programas pueden ayudarte a enfocar tu energía para que al entrar en un salón de clases no te sientas tan inquieto”, dijo.

Carter fue educado en el hogar por dos años antes de matricularse en la West. Recuerda que cuando llegó, algunos de los programas parecían un poco desorganizados.

“El programa de música estaba en malas condiciones. El maestro de música se jubiló, todavía no habían contratado a otro y de los muy pocos instrumentos que había, la mayoría eran viejos y estaban desafinados”, dijo.

Carter dijo que sin embargo algunos de los otros programas eran excelentes. La escuela acababa de invertir en equipo de video nuevo y también tenía un grupo de estudiantes activo dentro de la *Urban Nutrition Initiative*, un programa educativo cuyos miembros pueden trabajar en asuntos relacionados con la nutrición en la comunidad junto con estudiantes universitarios que están cursando carreras de salud pública.

Carter encontró un escape para sus talentos como miembro del celebrado *Hybrid X Team* de la escuela. El auto del equipo recientemente resultó ser mejor que más de 90 otros autos de programas universitarios de ingeniería y profesionales de la industria automotriz en un concurso de \$10 millones para desarrollar un auto que rindiera 100 millas por galón de gasolina.

Junto con su experiencia en el equipo Hybrid X, a quien le da crédito como la razón por haberse quedado en la West, Carter también jugó fútbol americano



Brad Gibson  
**El Campaign for Nonviolent Schools es un grupo local en el que muchos estudiantes de escuela superior demuestran su compromiso con la paz.**

y corrió pista durante su tercer año y fue parte del capítulo de la *Philadelphia Student Union* (PSU) de su escuela. Dijo que el apoyo de sus compañeros y mentores en la PSU fue el factor más importante en su éxito académico.

“Cuando mi abuelo murió, yo estaba bastante mal y tenía problemas para concentrarme en la escuela. La PSU realmente me ayudó a calmarme y a enfocar cómo me sentía para que pudiera enfocarme en el trabajo y volver a poner mis calificaciones donde necesitaban estar”, dijo.

En el caso de Carter, sus actividades ayudaron a mejorar su desempeño académico porque sus compañeros de la PSU estuvieron pendientes de su progreso y le apoyaron emocionalmente. Pero lograr un equilibrio entre el desempeño académico y las actividades extracurriculares no siempre es fácil.

White dijo que aunque las actividades después de la escuela la mantuvieron interesada, también le tomaron tanto tiempo y energía que sus calificaciones comenzaron a afectarse. Pero cuando se involucró con

la YUC en undécimo grado sintió presión para desempeñarse académicamente como parte de su compromiso con las actividades extracurriculares, lo cual renovó su enfoque en los estudios.

Andre Noble, decano de estudiantes en la Imhotep y entrenador a cargo del equipo de baloncesto de varones campeón del estado dijo, “Los jóvenes... a veces necesitan comprometerse con una actividad extracurricular para motivarse a tomar sus estudios más en serio. Cuando se usan adecuadamente, estos programas pueden ayudarlos a enfocarse en sus sueños y a entender cómo sus metas en la vida están conectadas con el desempeño académico”.

Ese fue el caso de David Appolon, estudiante senior en Imhotep y capitán del equipo de baloncesto. Aunque varias escuelas contaban con programas de baloncesto excelentes, Appolon sintió que la Imhotep le ofrecería oportunidades igualmente excelentes como estudiante y como atleta.

Aún así, Noble fue quien lo ayudó a integrar ambas cosas.

“El baloncesto me hace mantener buenas calificaciones. Sobre todo aquí, Andre no es sólo el entrenador sino también el decano de estudiantes y por eso siempre sabe si nos estamos descuidando”, dijo Appolon.

En Imhotep, a todos los jugadores se les requiere ir a visitar universidades, a muchas de las cuales terminan asistiendo con becas de atletismo.

“Siempre estaba concentrado en el baloncesto, pero ahora también tengo que concentrarme en los estudios si quiero seguir jugando. Si no mantengo el desempeño, no podré jugar. Es así de sencillo”, dijo.

Brad Gibson es estudiante en Haverford College y fue practicante de verano en el Notebook.

**Algunas escuelas superiores han creado una reputación por ciertas actividades; otras escuelas tienen programas excepcionales en muchas áreas.**

SCHOOL CALENDAR	2010-2011	CALENDARIO DE LA ESCUELA
9/6	Labor Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día trabajo - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
9/7	First day of elementary and secondary pupil attendance	Primer día de clases en escuelas elementales y secundarias
9/7-9/15	Kindergarten, Pre-Kindergarten Head Start, and Bright Futures parent/teacher conferences	Conferencias de padres y maestros de kinder, Head Start, y Bright Futures
9/9-9/10	Rosh Hashana - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Rosh Hashana - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
9/16	First day of Kindergarten, Pre-kindergarten Head Start, and Bright Futures attendance	Primer día de clases kinder, Head Start, y Bright Futures
10/11	Columbus Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día de Colón - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
11/2	Staff Only - Professional development day	No hay clases - Días de desarrollo profesional para personal
11/11	Veterans' Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día del Veterano - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
11/25-11/26	Thanksgiving holiday - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Acción de Gracias - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
12/24-12/31	Winter recess - Schools closed	Vacaciones de Invierno - Escuelas cerradas
1/17	Martin Luther King Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día de Martin Luther King - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
2/2	Staff Only - Professional development day	No hay clases - Días de desarrollo profesional para personal
2/21	Presidents' Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día de los Presidentes - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
4/18-4/22	Spring recess - Schools closed	Vacaciones de Primavera - Escuelas cerradas
5/17	Staff Only - Professional development day	No hay clases - Día de desarrollo profesional para personal
5/30	Memorial Day - Schools/ administrative offices closed	Día de la Recordación - Escuelas/ oficinas administrativas cerradas
6/17	Last day for pupils	Último día de clases
6/20	Last day for staff - Organization day	Último día de trabajo para los maestros - Día Organizacional

**SPECIAL ADMISSION  
HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Academy at Palumbo**

1100 Catharine St., 19147  
Ph: 215-351-7618 Fax: 215-351-7685  
Adrienne Wallace-Chew, Principal  
Email: awallacechew@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/palumbo

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 494  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** 88th percentile or above on PSSA; all As and Bs in major subjects for last two report periods, with possible exception of one C; no negative discipline reports; excellent attendance and punctuality  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 54% Latino – 8%  
Asian – 17% White – 20% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 1%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 61%

**New this year:** Total enrollment of over 600; graduated the school's first class in June 2010; new science labs, auditorium, gym, computer labs

**Recent improvements:** Made AYP three years in a row; most recent PSSAs increased 12 percentage points; students travel from all over the city; peer mediation-Project Pride Program; peer mentoring program

**Points of pride:** 100% of 2010 grads going to 4- or 2-year programs; made AYP with significant increase in PSSA scores; College Board Advanced Placement Program; diverse student body and freshman class has doubled; completion of \$12 million renovation project

**AP courses:** European History, Chemistry, US History, Physics B, Psychology, English Literature, Government and Politics, Biology, Calculus AB, Statistics, Chinese, Spanish, Studio Art

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Chinese  
**Student Success Center:** Maintains program with

SEAMAAC, which serves youth and adult immigrants of Southeast Asian, Latino/Hispanic, and African heritage; program has supportive social, health, educational, mentoring, and afterschool activities; Work Ready Program during the summer

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Griffin Gazette*; plays, fashion and talent shows; 30-member orchestra; 40-member choir; National Honor Society; University of Penn School of Law Partners Moot Court; dual enrollment program; VIEW Program at Villanova

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Volleyball, Football\*, Baseball\*, Track & Field\*, Soccer

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Badminton\*, Volleyball, Softball, Track & Field\*, Soccer\*, Badminton\*

**Titles/Championships won:** Boys' volleyball, Public League Title 2010; Girls' volleyball, Division Champions

**Arts Academy at Benjamin Rush**

11081 Knights Rd., 19154  
Ph: 215-281-2603 Fax: 215-281-2674  
Jessica Brown, Principal  
Email: jebrown@philasd.org  
www.artsacademybenrush.wikispaces.com

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 251  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Strong academic record; excellent punctuality, behavior, and attendance record; proficient or advanced in PSSA reading and math; successful audition in chosen art major  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 27% Latino – 15%  
Asian – 4% White – 53% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 4%  
**% of special education students:** 13%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 51%

**New this year:** Will be 9-11th grades and adding multiple electives in music technology, physics, pre-calculus, animation, and TV broadcasting

**Recent improvements:** Student participation in all-city orchestra and chorus; student wins in The



Achuff Photography

**Carver (Engineering and Science) and Central High School have both maintained strong girls' basketball programs. Here they go head-to-head.**

Sketch Club, PSD, One Book, and One Philadelphia Graphic Arts Contest

**Points of pride:** Student-centered community; integration of arts into all programming; 21st century tools used to enhance learning; gained recognition in ASCD's SmartBriefs; reflective teaching and learning in every class; media literacy permeates curriculum  
**AP courses:** Chemistry, Honors English

**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Palette*; plays; band; choir; clay club; global awareness; student government; Roots music club; math; homework help; Girls For Change; media arts; recording; Story Casting (digital film making); Creating Theatre; Graphic Arts; Media Arts; Dance Appreciation; Chamber Singers  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Track & Field, Baseball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Track & Field; Soccer, Volleyball, Softball

the Year Gina Hart, Brian Malloy; 99% college attendance; partnership with World Affairs Council of Phila.

**AP courses:** Calculus AB, English Language & Composition, United States History, Spanish Language, Spanish Literature; Physics will be added in 2010-2011

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Ambassador*; four cultural assemblies per year; instrumental lessons weekly; World Affairs Council; debate; Build-on; Red Cross; National Academic League; Academic World Quest; mock trial; chess; Philadelphia Student Union; Asian Club; Latino Club; Literary Magazine; GSA; National Honor Society; International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme, including Math Studies, Business and Management, Spanish, French, English, History of the Americas, 20th Century History, and Theory of Knowledge  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Football (w/ Mastbaum HS), Badminton  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton (Regional teams for swimming and gymnastics)

**Bodine High School for International Affairs**

1101 N. 4th St., 19123  
Ph: 215-351-7332 Fax: 215-351-7370  
Ann Gardiner, Principal  
Email: agardiner@philasd.org

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 533  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Excellent PSSA scores; all As and Bs in major subjects; no failures; no disciplinary reports; excellent attendance and punctuality; 80th percentile on standardized exams  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 55% Latino – 19%  
Asian – 11% White – 15% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 5%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 61%

**New this year:** Language program, including one year of Latin for 9th graders followed by an accelerated Spanish 1-2 class for 10th graders, allowing them to proceed with IB or regular Spanish 3 in the 11th grade  
**Recent improvements:** In 2010, will enter year two of the Philadelphia Mural Arts/Restored Spaces project, involving installation of murals on the building, tree planting, and outdoor seating and shelter installation for classes and recreation

**Points of pride:** 2009 National Blue Ribbon School; 2010 Phila. School District Vanguard School; 2010 Phila. School District Teacher of the Year, Aaron Greberman; 2008 & 2009 Teachers of

**CAPA (Philadelphia High School for the Creative and Performing Arts)**

901 S. Broad St., 19147  
Ph: 215-952-2462 Fax: 215-952-6472  
Johnny C. Whaley, Jr., Principal  
Email: jwhaley@philasd.org  
www.capa.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 663  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** As and Bs in major subjects, with the exception of one C; 80th percentile on standardized exam; good attendance, punctuality and behavior; successful audition in chosen art field; high proficient scores on PSSA in reading and math  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 50% Latino – 10%  
Asian – 4% White – 34% Other – 2%

**% of English language learners:** 1%  
**% of special education students:** 4%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 48%

**New this year:** Increased technology, guided homeroom activities, continued focus on improved student achievement

**Pregnant? Parenting?  
Need to finish school?  
ELECT Teen Parent Classrooms  
Call (267) 386-4677  
www.cisphl.org**



Martin Nock, President & CEO  
2000 Hamilton Street, Suite 201 | Philadelphia, PA 19130  
Phone: 267.386.4600 | Fax: 267.330.0164 | info@cisphl.org | www.cisphl.org

**KEY TO THE SCHOOL PROFILES**

This is a directory of District and charter high schools. The contact information and demographic data for District schools are from the School District of Philadelphia. Charter school data are compiled from the District and from charter school annual reports filed with the state. Sports information is from the PIAA.

All schools were asked to complete a survey. Information in the following profile sections is self-reported by the schools: "New this year," "Recent improvements," "Points of pride," "Career and Technical Education programs," "AP courses," "Foreign languages," "Student Success Center," and "Activities & special programs."

**Abbreviations used throughout the listings:**

- NR = No response by the school
- NA = Not applicable/available
- AP = Advanced Placement
- AYP = Adequate Yearly Progress
- CTE = Career and Technical Education
- DOL = Department of Labor (U.S.)
- PIAA = Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association
- \* = These sports are **not** authorized for PIAA competition

**SPECIAL ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED)

**Recent improvements:** Improvements in technology and creative rostering to facilitate scholarship search and financial aid opportunities for graduating seniors  
**Points of pride:** 96% college acceptance rate; 98% graduation rate; offer a full college preparatory program; annual spring musical involving over 200 students; state-of-the-art neo-gothic facility; programs in dance, instrumental and vocal music; theater; outstanding visual arts and creative writing departments

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Film; Graphic Design

**AP courses:** English Language & Composition, English Literature & Composition, World History, Biology, Music Theory

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Italian

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Painted Word*; one full musical and six plays in 2009-10 school year; 70-member concert band; 35-member jazz band; 50-member concert choir; 37-member mixed choir; 110-student dance performances; 55-student writers' café; 145-student visual arts gallery; honors classes in all core subjects beginning in 10th grade

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Tennis, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Cross Country, Softball, Volleyball

**Carver High School of Engineering and Science**

1600 W. Norris St. , 19121  
Ph: 215-684-5079 Fax: 215-684-5151  
Linda Ahmed, Principal  
Email: lahmed@philas.org  
www.carver.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 637

**Admissions requirements (2009):** 85th percentile on PSSA; all As and Bs (one C allowed) and no failures in any subject; excellent behavior and attendance; advanced scores on PSSA reading and math

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 82% Latino – 6%  
Asian – 8% White – 3% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 3%

**% of special education students:** 4%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 57%

**New this year:** Weighted Student Funding initiative; HSES School Advisory Council (SAC); bilingual counselor

**Recent improvements:** Engineering program targets students who are considering a career in engineering or engineering technology; these courses offer activity, project and problem-based learning; as a certified Project Lead The Way school, students can earn college credits for engineering courses, including Engineering Survey, Introduction to Engineering, Principles of Engineering, Digital Electronics, and Civil Engineering/Architecture

**Points of pride:** U.S. Dept. of Ed. Blue Ribbon School, 2008; *U.S. News & World Report*: Bronze Commendation, 2009; nearly 100% college acceptance; annual college fair (60 recruiters); 95%-97% staff and student attendance; 1st place 2010 State Chess Championship

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Engineering Technology/Project Lead The Way

**AP courses:** Biology, Calculus, Chemistry, English Literature, Physics, Statistics, U.S. History

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French

**Student Success Center:** Serves all students and college recruiters; provides homework zone during lunch periods and after school, peer mediation program, before and after-school tutoring, activity/event informational sessions from external organizations

**Activities & special academic programs:** Plays, including two held in 2009-10 school year; 20-member band; 10-member rock band; 15-member choir; National Honor Society; National Beta Club; National Society of Black Engineers; Model United Nations; Red Cross; Chess; ACE Mentoring; debate team; Biomed Program

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Swimming\*, Gymnastics\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*, Swimming\*, Gymnastics\*

**Titles/Championships won:** 2010 PIAA Track & Field Champions; 2nd place 2010 Public League Cheerleading competition, Pyramid Division

**Central High School**

1700 W. Olney Ave., 19141  
Ph: 215-276-5262 Fax: 215-276-4721  
Dr. Sheldon Pavel, President  
Email: spavel@philas.org  
www.centralhigh.net

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 2,331

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Must score above the 88th percentile on PSSA; all As and Bs (one C allowed) for the last two report periods; excellent behavior and attendance; handwritten writing sample

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 32% Latino – 7%  
Asian – 30% White – 29% Other – 2%

**% of English language learners:** 1%

**% of special education students:** 1%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 48%

**New this year:** 15 faculty; visual culture class;

(continued on page 14)

**TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Special admission high schools** These 17 high schools have specific admissions requirements in the areas of test scores, grades earned in core subjects, and attendance and behavior records. Two other schools have special admissions programs within them. Students across the city may apply.

**Citywide admission high schools** Students citywide are eligible to apply to these 12 high schools, and those who meet the criteria are entered into a lottery. Each school has different admissions criteria, but most require that students have passing grades in all major subjects and maintain a good attendance, behavior, and punctuality record.

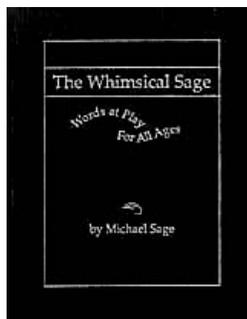
**Neighborhood high schools** These 32 schools have geographic boundaries; students are guaranteed admission if their school for grade 8 falls within the feeder pattern. Those living outside of the feeder pattern may also apply, but admission is based on available space and determined through a lottery.

**Charter high schools** There are 29 charters serving the high school grades. They are not District-operated – each functions as an independent district. Any Philadelphia student may apply to any charter school, and schools are required to choose students by lottery if there are more applicants than slots. They are not allowed to exclude applicants based on grades or test scores or other aspects of their record. But each school has its own procedures and deadlines, as well as different interview, orientation, and paperwork requirements for students and parents before enrollment is guaranteed.

**The Sultans of Schlep!**  
"A Move So Good You'll Want To Do It Again"  
215-939-7510  
sultansofschlep@earthlink.net



**Free ReadAloud: Librarians, Reading Teachers & Language Arts Teachers:**



Host a FREE interactive ReadAloud program at your school be it public, private, charter, church, or any literacy educational setting.

In this eighth year of sharing THE WHIMSICAL SAGE—a hardback collection of fun with homonyms, similes, puns, definitions, expressions, words inside words, diverse verses, and short stories with playful illustrations—readings are appropriate for all readers from grades 2nd through 6th and students of ANY ability, including differently-abled.

**The Whimsical Sage ReadAloud**  
www.thewhimsicalsage.org - Philadelphia

To schedule a FREE ReadAloud at school and other educational venues, contact: joan@thewhimsicalsage.org or 215-922-1892

**FREE Tutoring**  
Now available in Philadelphia!



**FREE instruction available in Reading or Mathematics**

for all qualifying students, from kindergarten to high school, from qualifying schools. Help your child build learning skills today that last a lifetime.

**Help Your Child Get Ahead This Year!**



**Your Child Can Learn. Call (215) 879-3230**

©2005 Huntington Learning Centers, Inc. Independently owned and operated. HLC1205

**SPECIAL ADMISSION  
HIGH SCHOOLS**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13)

2nd full-time music teacher; African American History Honors curriculum; windows; Japanese studies; MG linked course in Algebra I and Fundamentals of Science

**Recent improvements:** New windows and bleachers under construction; rise in PSSA scores; 98.2% of students either advanced or proficient; International Day; Women's Day; Career Day; diverse student body

**Points of pride:** Student achievement; alumni involvement; faculty expertise and dedication; parental concern; Vanguard status; multicultural environment

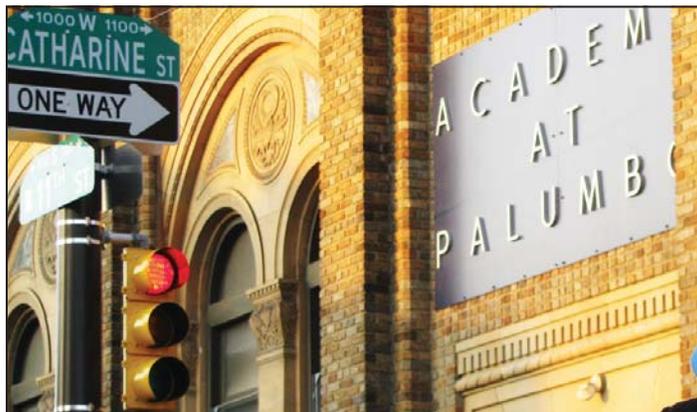
**AP courses:** English Language, English Literature, World History, European History, U.S. History, Government, Economics, Psychology, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Statistics, Computer Science, Biology, Chemistry, Physics B, Physics C, Env. Science, Chinese, French, Spanish, Latin, Art, Music Theory, International Bacc.

**Foreign languages:** Chinese, French, Italian, Latin, Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Centralizer*; four plays held in 2009-10; 40-member orchestra; 15-member jazz band; 30-member choir; literary magazines; debate; dramatics; music; drama; creative writing; Constitutional Law; Asian Studies; New American Studies; Forensics; Genetics; Anatomy; Materials Science; Robotics; Microbiology; Visual Arts; Web Design; mentally gifted program; ESL program

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Gymnastics, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball



Benjamin Herold

**Academy at Palumbo graduated its first class in June, with 100 percent of its 2010 grads going to 2- or 4-year programs.**

**Franklin Learning Center**

616 N. 15th St., 19130  
Ph: 215-684-5916 Fax: 215-684-8969  
Charles Staniskis, Principal  
Email: cstanisk@philasd.org  
www.flc.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 643  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Strong B average or better in grade 7; above 75th percentile on standardized tests; good attendance and behavior record; audition or presentation of portfolio for students interested in arts major

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 46% Latino – 16%  
Asian – 11% White – 26% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 4%  
**% of special education students:** 6%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 62%  
**New this year:** Lockers; refurbished boys locker

room; gymnasium floor and backboards; conference center with dual interactive white boards, projection capability and surround sound; Health Technology suite; interactive white boards in every class; additional chemistry laboratory

**Recent improvements:** Merit/demerit system to maintain a positive school climate; Saturday school helps students catch up on assignments and attend SAT preparation classes; continuous gains in PSSAs; made AYP 5 years in a row; one of 13 schools nominated by the State Department of Education for Blue Ribbon status; over 90% of graduates go to college

**Points of pride:** Nominated as a Blue Ribbon School at the National; made AYP 5 years in a row; multicultural student body; over 90% college acceptance rate; continuous progress educational program; project-based learning

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Health Related Technology; Business Technology

**AP courses:** Biology, English, Calculus, Art, Spanish, dual enrollment at colleges

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French

**Activities & special academic programs:** 30-member band; 30-member choir; mock trial; Asian club; chess; Young Women's Club; student government; World Affairs; class officers; internships; Red Cross club; Music; Art; Dance; Drama

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Bowling, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Bowling, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*

**Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP)**

2136 Ritner St., 19145  
Ph: 215-952-8589 Fax: 215-952-6544  
Angelo Milicia, Principal  
Email: amilicia@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/gamp

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 488

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Must score in the 75th percentile on PSSA; B average; good behavior and attendance record; must have an interest in music

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 29% Latino – 4%  
Asian – 12% White – 53% Other – 2%

**% of English language learners:** 0%

**% of special education students:** 5%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 46%

**New this year:** Middle school concert choir formed; more AP courses offered as part of a summer program; musical *Hairspray* will run in fall; five new staffers

**Recent improvements:** State-of-the-art theater; The Mann Music Center has brought in musical talent as learning opportunities

**Points of pride:** Meets state standards yearly; college prep program academics; vocal ensembles; instrumental ensembles; yearly Broadway musicals;  
(continued on page 16)

**You Can Go to College**



**We Can Show You How**

**Philadelphia Education Fund's College Access Program**

North Philadelphia Center  
Rivera Building  
2603 N. 5th Street, 1st Floor  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
TEL: 215-739-9360  
FAX: 215-739-8550

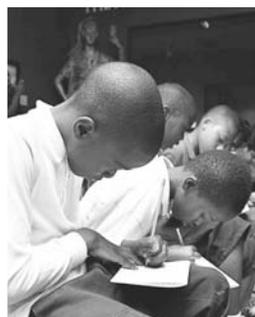
West Philadelphia Center  
The Enterprise Center  
4548 Market Street  
Philadelphia, PA 19139  
TEL: 215-476-2227  
FAX: 215-476-3670

Center City Center  
The Gallery I, Street Level  
9th & Market Streets  
Philadelphia, PA 19107  
TEL: 215-574-1341  
FAX: 215-574-1535

[www.philaeafund.org](http://www.philaeafund.org)

**PHILADELPHIA MUSEUM OF ART**

**Discover Creative Ways to Enrich Curriculum**



**BACK TO SCHOOL EVENT AND GROSS CLINIC LECTURE**

**Saturday, September 25, 9:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m.**

4 PA or NJ hours

Go on a sample tour, learn about distance learning programs, check out the Museum's teaching posters and kits, and book a school trip for your class!

**LECTURE** Curator Kathleen Foster talks about *An Eakins Masterpiece Restored: Seeing The Gross Clinic Anew*.

**MINI-WORKSHOP** Curriculum specialist Catherine Richmond-Cullen presents "Beyond the Standards: Ideas for Advocating for the Arts in Your School."

**WIN** teaching poster sets and teaching kits! Bring your principal and you'll be entered to win a free school trip!

This program is FREE. Space is limited to 200 teachers. Reservations required. To register for this event, call 215-235-SHOW.

# HOLY FAMILY UNIVERSITY



EVERY OPPORTUNITY  
FOR SUCCESS.



**LEARN AND LEAD.** Holy Family University is proud to announce its first doctoral program: **the Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership and Professional Studies.**

The mission of this new EdD program is to develop effective and ethical leaders for schools and communities who can make significant contributions to their fields of knowledge through applied research.

Now accepting applications for January 2011 and September 2011, the program will be flexible and designed for working professionals with courses offered during evening and summer sessions. Some online and weekend courses will be available as well.

A longtime leader in education studies, Holy Family continues to advance its offerings and curricula better to serve educators, schools, and students. The new EdD is specifically structured for you—a working practitioner seeking advanced studies for professional development and advancement. Join us and learn from a leader—then lead yourself.

#### **Information Sessions**

Tuesday, September 14  
Thursday, October 7  
5:30-7 p.m.  
Education and Technology Center  
Grant and Frankford Avenues

More Information  
[holyfamily.edu/admissions/doctoral.shtml](http://holyfamily.edu/admissions/doctoral.shtml)  
267-341-3661 | [goneill@holyfamily.edu](mailto:goneill@holyfamily.edu)

**Holy Family**  
UNIVERSITY

[holyfamily.edu/info](http://holyfamily.edu/info)

**SPECIAL ADMISSION  
HIGH SCHOOLS**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14)

100% college acceptance rate

**AP courses:** Music Theory

**Foreign languages:** French, Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *GAMP GAZETTE*; plays; 120-member band; choir; concert choir; jazz band; swing band; string ensemble; Orchestra; Band Winter; Spring Concert; Music Technology; Tech Design; Theater Arts

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Tennis

**Girls' sports:** Softball, Cheerleading\*

**Titles/Championships won:** Citywide champs for Cheerleading 3 years in a row

**Lankenau Environmental Science  
Magnet High School**

201 Spring Lane, 19128

Ph: 215-487-4465 Fax: 215-487-4879

Jacqueline Bentley, Principal

Email: [jbentley@philasd.org](mailto:jbentley@philasd.org)

[www.philasd.org/schools/lankenau](http://www.philasd.org/schools/lankenau)

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 297

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Must score in the 70th percentile on PSSA; As, Bs, and Cs in major subjects; excellent behavior and attendance record; 10 or fewer absences and latenesses



*Masterman High School in Center City was rated by U.S. News & World Report as one of the top 100 schools in the nation.*

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 97% Latino – 1%

Asian – 0% White – 1% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 0%

**% of special education students:** 8%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 51%

**Recent improvements:** Because of improved student

grades, increased number of students inducted into the National Honor Society by 20%

**Points of pride:** 90% college-going rate; partnership with Chestnut Hill College; annual In-school Environmental Science Fair; annual career day; art and music courses; Penn State Upward Bound Program

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Classrooms for the Future

**AP courses:** English Literature, U.S. Government, U.S. History

**Foreign languages:** French

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Lanham Press*; 35-member choir; student government; chess club; Spirit Club; Yoga Club; Poetry Club; Recycling Club; Pre-Calculus; Calculus; Elementary Functions; Environmental Science; Physics

**Boys' sports:** Participates in sports offered at Germantown High School

**Girls' sports:** Participates in sports offered at Germantown High School

**Julia R. Masterman Laboratory  
and Demonstration School**

1699 Spring Garden St., 19130

Ph: 215-299-4661 Fax: 215-299-3425

Marjorie Neff, Principal

Email: [mneff@philasd.org](mailto:mneff@philasd.org)

[www.philasd.org/schools/masterman](http://www.philasd.org/schools/masterman)

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,205

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Must score in the 88th percentile or above on PSSA; As and Bs (possible exception of one C); Algebra I and French or Spanish I (in grade 8); good attendance, punctuality, and behavior

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 28% Latino – 6%

Asian – 18% White – 44% Other – 3%

**% of English language learners:** 0%

**% of special education students:** 2%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 44%

**New this year:** Increased access to technology and technology-based learning

**Recent improvements:** Provides an accelerated, enriched curriculum for academically talented students who are interested in a college preparatory experience; students participate in a rigorous academic program supported by a wide range of co-curricular activities;

**Points of pride:** Top-ranked school in PA on 2009 PSSA; *U.S. News & World Report* top 100 school; nationally ranked chess team; 2010 Gates Millennium Scholar; 12 AP courses and dual enrollment; 100% of students accepted to four-year colleges

**AP courses:** US History, US Government, English Language & Composition, English Literature, French, Spanish, Calculus AB, Calculus BC, Environmental Science, Biology, Statistics, Music Theory, (Study group for AP exam in Physics)

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Voices*; fully-staged musical held in 2009-10

school year; jazz bands; orchestra; choir involving over 200 students; debate; mock trial; Ultimate Frisbee Club; 30 HS MG electives; dual enrollment

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Titles/Championships won:** Boys Cross Country

Varsity-City Champions 2009-10; Girls Volleyball-

Varsity 2009-10 City Champions; Varsity Softball-

City Champions 2009-10

**Motivation High School**

2555 South 78th St., 19153

Ph: 215-492-6451 Fax: 215-492-6924

Yvonne J. Jones, Principal

Email: [yjones@phila.k12.pa.us](mailto:yjones@phila.k12.pa.us)

[www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/motivation](http://www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/motivation)

**2009-10 enrollment:** 221

**Admissions requirements (2009):** As and Bs with the exception of one C; proficient scores on PSSA reading and math; 70th percentile on standardized tests; positive attendance profiles, inclusive of absences and latenesses; interview with panel of students and staff; submission of writing sample

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 89% Latino – 2%

Asian – 7% White – 2% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 5%

**% of special education students:** 9%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 60%

**New this year:** Modern library; enhanced security system with cameras and special features; revised dress code for uniform compliance; increased membership in School Advisory Council; Cambridge Test Preparation Program

**Recent improvements:** New addition to building, which includes a lunchroom, main office, and gym; upgraded science labs

**Points of pride:** Interaction between staff and students; over \$1.8 million in scholarships/grants; number of students engaged in college preparation; new construction; AYP status for consecutive years

**AP courses:** U.S. History, English Language, English Literature, Environmental Science

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Arabic, French

**Activities & special academic programs:** Thursday clubs; Financial Literacy; Multicultural Ethical Issues; African Art and Culture; Multicultural Language; Desktop Publishing

**Parkway Center City High School**

540 N. 13th St., 19123

Ph: 215-351-7095 Fax: 215-351-7097

Catherine Blunt, Principal

Email: [cblunt@philasd.org](mailto:cblunt@philasd.org)

[www.philasd.org/schools/parkwaycc](http://www.philasd.org/schools/parkwaycc)

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 375

**Admissions requirements (2009):** As and Bs (one C allowed); basic or better on PSSA; excellent attendance, punctuality, and behavior record; 70th percentile or above on standardized exams

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 79% Latino – 7%

Asian – 8% White – 5% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%

**% of special education students:** 5%

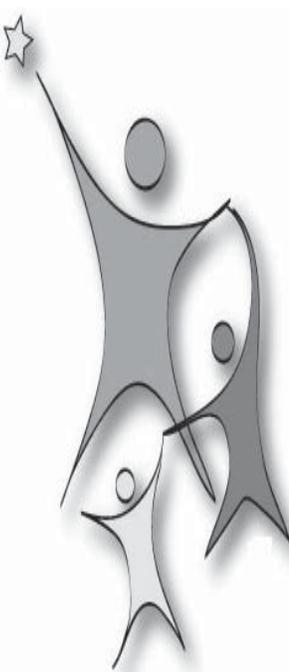
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 73%

**New this year:** Future Teachers' Club; drama club; school recycling efforts; tutorial (advisory) cooperative problem solving and quarterly tournaments; increased linkage between technology and classrooms; increased linkage between classrooms and school web site

**Recent improvements:** Increased AP offerings; increased 9-12 grade participation in afterschool/summer volunteer and enrichment programs; engaged in the Case Management Protocol to address barriers to learning; increased participation of Parkway Alumni in annual Career Day activities; involvement of Drexel University students in the school preparation and production of the play "Fences"; increased number of sports offerings through cooperative sponsorships

(continued on page 21)

**University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education**  
13th Annual Constance E. Clayton Lecture  
*Presents*  
**Dr. V.P. Franklin, Distinguished Historian and Professor**  
**"A FREEDOM THAT FEELS LIKE LOVE: REPARATIONS, THE TESTING  
INDUSTRY, AND THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM SCHOOLING"**  
October 6th at 4:30 pm  
Houston Hall-Class of '49 Auditorium, 249 South 36th St., Phila. PA



**Counseling**  
Individual and group counseling  
Women • Children • Men

**Crisis Intervention**  
24 Hour Hotline  
Hospital Accompaniment

**Court Accompaniment**  
Criminal Justice Center  
Family Court

**Outreach**  
Latino  
Asian  
Seniors  
People with disabilities

**Education & Training Programs**  
School Programs K – 12  
Professional  
Community  
Faith Based

*Women Organized Against Rape  
Advocacy • Education • Support*

1617 John F. Kennedy Boulevard Suite 1100  
One Penn Center (Suburban Station)  
Philadelphia PA 19103

Phone (215) 985 – 3315 Fax (215) 985 – 9111 **Hotline (215) 985 3333**

[www.woar.org](http://www.woar.org)

## FAQ on how to apply

### Where do I start?

Talk to the adults in your life, including teachers, counselors, and parents or guardians. Get a copy of the District's middle school guide, which gives advice about making the most of the middle years and sorting out your interests. Then consult the District's high school directory, read this guide, and meet with your counselor. Also, attend the High School Expo that is scheduled in October for 7th and 8th graders.

### When should I start thinking about high school choices?

No later than the beginning of 7th grade. High schools look at attendance, grades, and test scores from that year in determining who is qualified to attend.

### What is the difference between a special admission and a citywide admission school?

Special admission schools generally have test score cutoffs and very specific requirements regarding grades and attendance. Citywide admission schools give less weight to test scores, but still set standards regarding grades, attendance, and discipline records.

### What high schools use a lottery to decide who will get in?

Citywide admission schools put the names of all students who meet the basic qualifications into a pool and then offer admission via lottery. Charter schools also conduct lotteries.

### So I might not get into the school I want even if I qualify?

Yes.

### Is the same true of special admission schools?

Special admission schools do

not use a lottery, but generally set a higher bar and admit students who meet those standards.

### What if I want to go to a charter school?

Many charters have detailed applications and deadlines prior to their lotteries. If you are interested in a charter school, contact that school directly as early as you can.

### How can I find out the admission requirements of a school?

Your counselor should be familiar with the admission requirements for each school. This guide and District's directory of high schools also include this information.

### Some schools are hard to get into. Should I write them off if I don't meet the exact requirements?

No. They often admit students who do not meet every criterion. Principals at selective schools may seek recommendations from counselors and principals from the schools that applicants attend. Interviews can also make a big difference.

### Certain schools have lots of applicants – how can I improve my chances?

There are schools in the city that are not as well known but may have similar programs. Check them out.

### Should I visit the school as part of the admission process?

A visit is the best to get the "feel" of a school. Some schools allow applicants to shadow students for all or part of a day. Some require interviews or auditions. Check with your counselor.

### I want to go to my neighborhood high school. Do any have special programs?

Many neighborhood high

schools house special programs in such areas as health occupations, culinary arts, criminal justice, communications, graphics, and automotive technology. The District's high school directory includes a summary by area of interest and where these programs are located.

### Can I apply to a neighborhood high school in another area?

Yes. Keep in mind that students outside the feeder area are selected by lottery and only after all neighborhood students are accommodated.

### Should students with IEPs apply to selective high schools?

All students are encouraged to apply to any high school that interests them and for which they meet the basic qualifications. A court decision called *LeGare* requires the District to maintain a minimum percentage of students with individualized education programs (IEPs) in selective schools. There are separate lotteries for special ed students and English language learners at the schools that have lotteries.

### What about English language learners?

English language learners are also encouraged to apply to selective schools. A court decision called *Y.S.* requires the District to maintain a minimum percentage of English language learners in selective schools and bars schools from denying qualified ELLs admission by claiming a lack of services.

### Where can I get more information?

At the website of the School District's Office of Student Placement: <http://webgwi.phila.k12.pa.us/offices/student-placement>

—Dale Mezzacappa

## A timeline for choosing

### September – October

- Counselors distribute high school application forms and directory.
- District holds High School Expo – this year it is Oct. 1-3.
- Non-public school students can obtain materials at the Expo or from the Office of Student Placement.
- Families research schools.
- 8th grade counselors may hold information sessions for parents and students to help them choose schools and fill out the application form. Parents should keep in touch with counselors.

### September – March

- Some high schools allow prospective applicants to visit and shadow students. Families should contact schools directly.

### By October 29

- Students select up to 5 schools and return application form, signed by parent or guardian, to counselors.
- The 8th grade counselor enters application information into a networked computer system

### November – January

- Selective high schools begin to evaluate applications.
- Selective schools begin to conduct interviews and auditions. Some auditions and interviews are by invitation only and these schools only send out notifications, not rejections. Some schools interview all applicants but may send letters with date and time to counselors, not students (if a student has a conflict, s/he must reschedule). Some schools expect students to take the initiative in scheduling interviews.
- Students should consult counselors to keep on top of their applications.

### January – March

- Special admission schools make acceptance, rejection, and wait-list decisions.
- Citywide schools choose students to enter into admissions lottery.
- The District Office of Student Placement runs three lotteries (general education, special education, ELL) to determine which students are accepted to citywide schools and to neighborhood schools with outside applicants.

### March

- Notification letters are sent to students who were accepted to more than one school.

### March – April

- Students with multiple acceptances are expected to choose within two weeks and submit a form with their choice to the 8th grade counselor. They are urged to make timely decisions so the second round of placements can begin.

### April – September

- As "multiple acceptance" students decide, spaces open up and students originally wait-listed or disapproved are reconsidered. Second- and third-round lotteries are conducted.
- Parents, counselors, and principals advocate on behalf of students originally wait-listed or disapproved through phone calls and recommendation letters.
- Additional letters are sent to remaining applicants, informing them of subsequent decisions. In this round of letters, students are admitted to only one school.

## Counselors offer advice on applying

**Marion McGovern, counselor, Grover Washington Middle School, Olney:**

There is a lot of competition for what schools they get into. We try to get them to be as realistic as possible.

We start in 6th grade. Our mantra is, "Seventh grade is the grade that counts." It's like being a junior in high school. This is when you want to get the best grades, highest test scores, and make sure get you get to school on time.

We try to be as honest as possible with the kids. For the skills centers, it's about grades and attendance; they generally do not look at test scores. But students need to know that [for skills centers and citywide admission schools] there is a lottery. They may not get picked even though they qualify.



Marion McGovern

**Julie Feldman (not pictured), counselor, McCall Elementary, Society Hill:**

We tell them to spend a lot of time looking. Go to the high school fair. Think hard about what your interests are and use high school to explore those interests.

We have students pick a reach school, a couple of schools we know they are able to get into successfully, and one we know they will get into easily. It's like applying to college.

If students' school records are not as pretty as they'd like, we have them write a letter about what happened, what they are doing about it, and what they expect to give to the school in addition to what they expect the school to give them. We get them letters of recommendation, and we work on interviewing skills.



Maxine Coker

**Maxine Coker, counselor, Henry Elementary, Mount Airy:**

We try to guide students to get the information they need to make informed choices. If they are into a certain extracurricular activity or sport, they need to investigate whether the high schools they are applying to have those things. What languages do they teach? Do they have AP courses?

If students want vocational programs, they must investigate those programs. Sometimes we have students who want to apply to Saul [an agricultural high school], but they say they don't like animals or plants. Is that a good fit?

**Heather Rodgers, counselor, Woodrow Wilson Middle School, Northeast Phila.:**

I would tell parents to contact your counselor in the beginning of the [8th grade] year. The kids need their parents' support and help through this; parents should call to find out when the school's informational session will be. We send a letter home, but sometimes they can get overwhelmed with all the paperwork we send home.

There are some well-known schools, but students may not know that there are other schools they can go to with similar programs.

We tell students to be mindful of where they live and how long a commute they would have.



Heather Rodgers

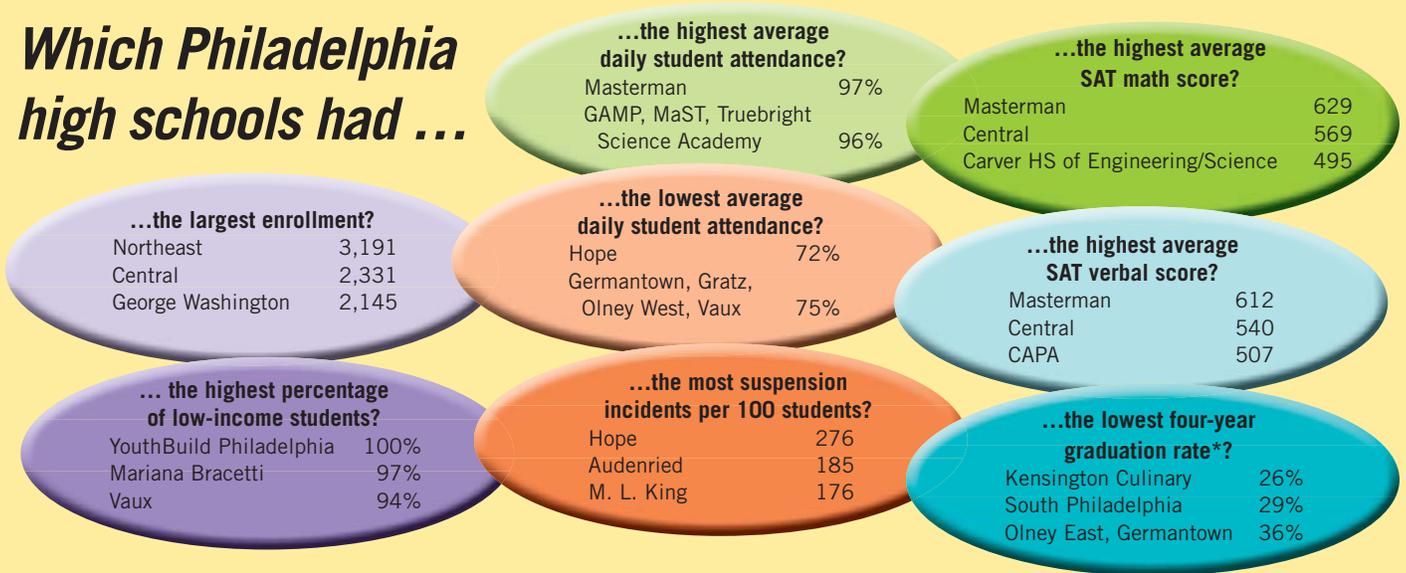
All photos by Harvey Finke

# Philadelphia's District and charter high

School name	2009 Enrollment	Percentage of low income students	Percentage of special education students	Percentage of English language learners	Average teacher daily attendance	Average student daily attendance	Out-of-school suspensions per 100 students	Average score SAT verbal	Average score SAT math	Average score SAT writing	2009 PSSA % proficient Reading	2009 PSSA % proficient Math	4-year graduation rate - class of 2009
<b>Special admission high schools</b>													
Academy at Palumbo	494	61%	1%	2%	98%	94%	1	NA	NA	NA	87%	72%	NA
Arts Academy at Rush	251	51%	13%	4%	97%	94%	6	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bodine	533	61%	5%	2%	93%	93%	12	460	473	450	89%	84%	91%
Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)	663	48%	4%	1%	95%	94%	1	507	460	501	84%	62%	96%
Carver HS of Engineering & Science	637	57%	4%	3%	98%	95%	7	465	495	463	89%	84%	92%
Central	2,331	48%	1%	1%	96%	95%	1	540	569	532	98%	98%	93%
Franklin Learning Center	643	62%	6%	4%	95%	90%	5	434	449	422	77%	74%	NA
Girard Academic Music Program (GAMP)	488	46%	5%	0%	96%	96%	0	469	470	473	97%	94%	95%
Lankenau	297	51%	8%	0%	96%	92%	10	400	405	383	68%	51%	85%
Masterman	1,205	44%	2%	0%	96%	97%	1	612	629	619	98%	100%	99%
Motivation	221	60%	9%	5%	91%	95%	6	382	429	379	69%	61%	89%
Parkway Center City	375	73%	5%	2%	97%	90%	23	418	436	432	76%	75%	85%
Parkway Northwest	275	61%	10%	0%	94%	91%	24	399	401	404	47%	35%	91%
Parkway West	312	62%	10%	1%	95%	88%	16	411	419	402	66%	39%	81%
Philadelphia HS for Girls	1,103	58%	2%	2%	95%	91%	1	475	478	473	88%	76%	87%
Saul HS for Agricultural Sciences	552	59%	9%	0%	95%	93%	9	456	441	444	82%	51%	76%
Science Leadership Academy	485	49%	5%	2%	97%	94%	1	NA	NA	NA	84%	64%	NA
<b>Citywide admission high schools</b>													
Bok Technical	919	84%	17%	6%	92%	86%	35	359	387	345	49%	53%	69%
Communications Technology	436	76%	13%	2%	93%	83%	18	365	354	357	53%	30%	65%
Constitution	384	61%	9%	4%	97%	90%	15	NA	NA	NA	82%	38%	NA
Dobbins Technical	805	85%	13%	2%	92%	86%	16	360	353	349	30%	18%	72%
High School of the Future	477	84%	12%	2%	94%	86%	18	NA	NA	NA	23%	7%	NA
Mastbaum Technical	897	84%	14%	6%	95%	88%	23	361	369	350	34%	26%	73%
Philadelphia HS for Business & Technology	181	73%	10%	2%	94%	86%	79	429	363	390	67%	18%	72%
Philadelphia Military Academy at Elverson	259	76%	8%	3%	95%	94%	24	395	373	390	69%	47%	81%
Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds	296	62%	9%	3%	93%	92%	0	418	420	402	67%	39%	71%
Randolph Career Academy	406	75%	12%	0%	93%	87%	31	361	352	357	19%	23%	70%
Robeson HS for Human Services	306	73%	12%	0%	95%	89%	20	359	351	369	22%	30%	73%
Swenson Technical	791	58%	17%	5%	93%	90%	17	395	378	370	32%	16%	80%
<b>Neighborhood high schools</b>													
Audenried	334	93%	25%	1%	93%	81%	185	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Bartram	1,243	84%	20%	7%	93%	80%	13	338	334	332	12%	11%	48%
Carroll	472	85%	18%	4%	97%	79%	11	364	370	378	21%	8%	53%
Douglas	298	84%	37%	7%	95%	82%	24	NA	NA	NA	21%	18%	73%
Edison	1,892	90%	20%	23%	94%	77%	39	350	365	333	20%	13%	40%
Fels	1,586	73%	18%	11%	94%	79%	74	357	344	336	13%	11%	51%
FitzSimons	418	89%	23%	0%	91%	77%	127	355	337	318	15%	19%	37%
Frankford	1,749	83%	22%	6%	92%	77%	51	374	381	359	14%	9%	45%
Franklin, Benjamin	676	85%	23%	4%	95%	84%	33	338	345	330	20%	20%	40%
Furness	643	76%	22%	21%	95%	84%	25	345	395	330	23%	21%	40%
Germantown	1,082	83%	30%	0%	92%	75%	50	367	350	352	13%	10%	36%
Gratz	1,255	89%	21%	1%	94%	75%	46	332	320	313	13%	14%	57%
Kensington Business	544	90%	29%	9%	95%	76%	12	350	370	340	6%	12%	37%
Kensington Creative & Performing Arts	505	89%	21%	13%	93%	80%	7	369	343	345	19%	6%	40%
Kensington Culinary Arts	513	90%	24%	11%	93%	77%	45	374	383	333	19%	20%	26%
King	1,164	74%	27%	2%	92%	81%	176	360	339	340	16%	7%	43%
Lamberton	258	57%	12%	2%	95%	85%	29	372	361	352	20%	7%	73%
Lincoln	1,726	62%	19%	5%	94%	82%	48	395	409	375	23%	14%	44%
Northeast	3,191	50%	13%	13%	93%	87%	42	416	450	411	50%	55%	68%
Olney East	900	89%	23%	11%	94%	77%	85	355	357	343	16%	11%	36%
Olney West	847	85%	23%	11%	93%	75%	43	356	356	340	15%	8%	37%
Overbrook	1,595	83%	18%	0%	95%	78%	20	361	359	351	15%	14%	47%
Rhodes	482	89%	17%	0%	96%	79%	147	333	307	338	42%	37%	49%
Roxborough	821	74%	22%	2%	93%	81%	60	353	357	345	12%	9%	56%
Sayre	632	85%	18%	1%	93%	77%	90	360	360	368	14%	5%	39%
South Philadelphia	948	85%	24%	16%	95%	76%	54	337	396	328	8%	16%	29%
Strawberry Mansion	470	90%	26%	0%	93%	83%	5	337	333	328	67%	70%	62%
University City	772	89%	25%	2%	94%	77%	74	330	338	318	11%	9%	43%
Vaux	384	94%	27%	2%	95%	75%	90	346	357	323	8%	3%	41%
Washington, George	2,145	51%	18%	8%	93%	86%	44	417	438	410	55%	53%	60%
West Philadelphia	829	85%	19%	3%	92%	79%	21	361	348	348	12%	9%	45%

# schools: How are they doing?

## Which Philadelphia high schools had ...



\*comparable data for charter high schools was not available

School name	2009 Enrollment	Percentage of low income students	Percentage of special education students	Percentage of English language learners	Average student daily attendance	Out-of-school suspensions per 100 students	Average score SAT verbal	Average score SAT math	Average score SAT writing	2009 PSSA % proficient Reading	2009 PSSA % proficient Math
<b>Charter schools serving high school grades</b>											
Boys' Latin of Philadelphia	242	79%	12%	NA	95%	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Charter HS for Architecture & Design	557	48%	9%	0%	94%	12	402	391	387	56%	44%
Community Academy of Philadelphia	1,209	93%	11%	NA	93%	13	NA	NA	NA	34%	20%
Delaware Valley	700	74%	11%	NA	83%	58	364	356	355	47%	27%
Esperanza Academy	753	81%	17%	17%	91%	25	360	375	347	20%	14%
Franklin Towne	938	70%	17%	0%	94%	23	422	440	411	66%	54%
Freire	456	78%	11%	0%	94%	73	397	389	409	67%	54%
Hope	385	48%	23%	0%	72%	276	330	306	310	6%	0%
Imhotep Institute	525	87%	18%	0%	91%	6	357	337	349	34%	81%
Mariana Bracetti Academy	1,155	97%	14%	19%	90%	NA	349	372	347	31%	38%
Maritime Academy	766	85%	14%	NA	93%	1	433	391	413	65%	61%
Mastery - Lenfest Campus	427	70%	16%	0%	94%	34	382	400	398	63%	69%
Mastery - Pickett Campus	339	86%	23%	0%	94%	38	NA	NA	NA	64%	69%
Mastery - Shoemaker Campus	440	93%	13%	0%	95%	45	NA	NA	NA	78%	87%
Mastery - Thomas Campus	453	76%	16%	1%	94%	107	NA	NA	NA	66%	72%
Mathematics, Civics and Sciences	882	72%	5%	0%	93%	NA	366	362	373	49%	45%
Mathematics, Sciences & Technology Community (MaST)	1,228	34%	13%	0%	96%	NA	481	483	463	84%	87%
Multi-Cultural Academy	155	86%	11%	0%	95%	NA	371	399	377	52%	44%
New Media Technology	484	77%	10%	0%	92%	7	360	369	367	52%	42%
Philadelphia Academy	1,181	30%	30%	NA	95%	2	445	407	442	68%	66%
Philadelphia Electrical & Technology	625	62%	14%	1%	92%	0	376	359	358	53%	44%
Preparatory Charter of Math, Science, Technology, & Careers	581	64%	3%	0%	94%	21	395	409	402	84%	64%
Truebright Science Academy	293	75%	24%	0%	96%	8	NA	NA	NA	36%	34%
World Communications	500	78%	3%	0%	90%	NA	403	409	391	61%	58%
YouthBuild Philadelphia	245	100%	3%	0%	NA	24	355	321	325	NA	NA

Data were not available for the following charters that opened in 2009: Arise Academy, Eastern University Academy, Sankofa Academy, and Tacony Academy.

### KEY TO DATA FOR DISTRICT SCHOOLS (P. 18)

SAT, PSSA scores: for 2009 from Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Graduation rates: Rates are as determined in 2009 for entering 9th graders from fall 2005, from School District of Philadelphia. Students are attributed to their 9th grade school.

All other data are reported by the School District of Philadelphia for the 2009-10 school year.

See page 13 for descriptions of these school types.

### KEY TO DATA FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

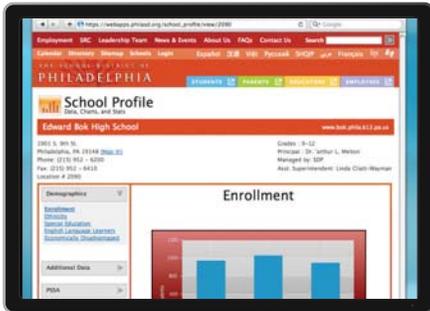
SAT, PSSA scores: for 2009 from Pennsylvania Department of Education.

All other data are reported by the charter schools, from the 2009 Charter School Annual Report summaries from Pennsylvania Department of Education. Updated annual reports were filed by schools in August 2010 and will be posted by the Department of Education in fall 2010.

Note: Graduation rates for charter schools using a comparable methodology to District schools are not available.

Looking for info online about Philly high schools?

## Where to look on the Web to find lots of data



[https://webapps.philasd.org/school\\_profile](https://webapps.philasd.org/school_profile)

### School District: School Profiles

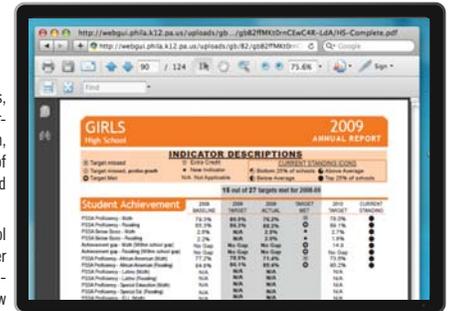
Total enrollment and percentage breakdown of student body based on ethnicity, economic disadvantage, English language learners, and special education.

The "Additional Data" section is the only place with data relating to climate: student and teacher attendance rates, student suspensions, serious incidents, and student turnover during the year. Bar graph alert: if you want to compare schools, the height of the bars is misleading. Each school's graph has its own scale.

### School District: School Annual Reports for all high schools

Snapshot of each school showing test scores, achievement gaps among ethnic groups, percentage of students on track to graduation, dropout rate, and (self-reported) percentage of students getting college/career counseling and taking college entrance exams.

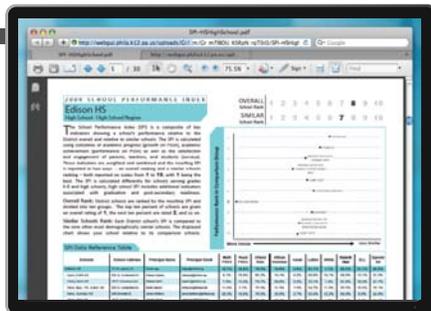
There are also indicators relating to school operations, community satisfaction, and other milestones chosen by the school. Helpful symbols indicate whether targets were met and how the school compares to others in the District.



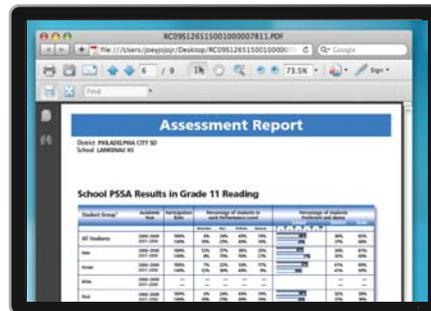
<http://bit.ly/district-ann-reports>

### School District: School Performance Index

Scale that shows how high schools track up on a variety of indicators in the annual reports compared to all city public high schools and to a group of schools with similar demographics. Schools are rated on a scale of 1 to 10 in each category, with 1 being the best (top 10 percent) and 10 the worst (bottom 10 percent).



<http://bit.ly/district-spi>



<http://paayp.emetric.net/County/DistrictList/c51>

### Pennsylvania Department of Education: Academic Achievement Report

State-operated site includes an adequate yearly progress report and a report card on each school, with information required by No Child Left Behind – primarily graduation rates and student proficiency rates on the state test. Test score information can be viewed in various ways, including year-year trends.



**Dedication.**



**Ambition.**



**Purpose.**



Join us in our mission to empower students & their communities through education at Temple University

- Over 30 undergraduate and graduate degree programs.
- Full-time and Part-time program offerings.
- Main Campus, Center City, Fort Washington, Ambler & Harrisburg campuses available.

Learn more about our Department of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

Pursue a career in Educational Administration by enrolling in the ELPS Department's Principal Certification Program.

Temple's Principal Certification Program:

- Prepares individuals to serve as principals and assistant principals.
- Provides insight into the purposes and processes of schools.
- Provides the expertise necessary to lead and administer a school community.

For more information on the College of Education and its programs, call 215-204-8011 or visit [www.temple.edu/education](http://www.temple.edu/education)

## Freedom Credit Union.

A Trusted Financial Advisor to Philadelphia's Educators for 75 Years.

### LEARN & EARN PROGRAM

To learn more about Freedom's Learn & Earn Student Banking Program, and to hear how your school can participate, visit [freedomcu.org](http://freedomcu.org).



Your savings are federally insured to at least \$250,000 and backed by the full faith of the United States Government  
**NCUA**  
National Credit Union Administration, A.U.S. Government Agency



215.612.5900 • [freedomcu.org](http://freedomcu.org)

**SPECIAL ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16)

**Points of pride:** Achieving AYP; college attendance rate; Classroom for the Future school; affiliation with Lantern Theatre and OIC of America; PE/HE at Temple; partnership with University of Delaware in Science and Math Ed.

**AP courses:** Biology, American History, English Language, English Literature

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** School plays, including "Fences" held in 2009-10 school year; student government; debate; chess; Honor Society; drama club; robotics; tutoring; senior activities; dual enrollment and six-week Residential Math and Science Summer Enrichment Program at the University of Delaware

**Boys' sports:** Soccer, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cooperative sponsorships for Football, Basketball (girls and boys), Softball (girls), Baseball (boys), and Cheerleading

**Parkway Northwest High School for Peace and Social Justice**

7500 Germantown Ave., 19119  
Ph: 215-248-6220 Fax: 215-248-6015  
Ethyl McGee, Principal  
Email: emcgee@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/parkwaynw

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 275

**Admissions requirements (2009):** B or above in major subjects; good behavior, attendance, and punctuality; scores of basic or better on PSSA; interview; 70th percentile on standardized exams

**Student racial demographics:**

African American - 99% Latino - 1%  
Asian - 0% White - 0% Other - 0%

**% of English language learners:** 0%

**% of special education students:** 10 %

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 61%

**New this year:** AP American History; Golden Peace Hoyas Club recognizing students in academics, attendance, and behavior with monthly, quarterly, and end of year final drawings for a 19" high definition television and a Blu-ray DVD player after each quarter

**Recent improvements:** As a student community project, on Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, students organized 12 workshops fostering cultural awareness for over 200 students and community members; students are part of the SHARE (Spanish, History, Art, Research, English) Program, a cross curricular project; students engaged in research, writing, and art-making, and conducted teach-ins addressing peace, change, and social awareness

**Points of pride:** Every student receives peer mediation and conflict resolution; significant improvement on PSSAs in reading; school maintains over 90% daily average attendance; only high school participating in the Freedom Writers Project at LaSalle U.; *Inquirer* Student Citizenship Winner in 2001; 2nd place Dwight Service Learning Project winner

**AP courses:** English Literature, Studio Art, American History

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** Notable recognition through participation in Phila Young Playwrights; 1st place monologue and 2nd place play winners

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Tennis

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Tennis

**Parkway West High School**

4725 Fairmount Ave., 19139  
Ph: 215-581-5510 Fax: 215-581-5600  
Kathleen McCladdie, Principal  
Email: kmcladdie@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/parkwaywest

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 312

**Admissions requirements (2009):** As and Bs (one C allowed); basic or better on PSSA; excellent

**KEY TO THE SCHOOL PROFILES**

This is a directory of District and charter high schools. The contact information and demographic data for District schools are from the School District of Philadelphia. Charter school data are compiled from the District and from charter school annual reports filed with the state. Sports information is from the PIAA.

All schools were asked to complete a survey. Information in the following profile sections is self-reported by the schools: "New this year," "Recent improvements," "Points of pride," "Career and Technical Education programs," "AP courses," "Foreign languages," "Student Success Center," and "Activities & special programs."

**Abbreviations used throughout the listings:**

NR = No response by the school  
NA = Not applicable/available  
AP = Advanced Placement  
AYP = Adequate Yearly Progress

CTE = Career and Technical Education  
DOL = Department of Labor (U.S.)

PIAA = Pennsylvania Interscholastic Athletic Association  
\* = These sports are **not** authorized for PIAA competition

attendance, punctuality, and behavior record; 70th percentile on standardized exams

**Student racial demographics:**

African American - 99% Latino - 0%  
Asian - 0% White - 0% Other - 0%

**% of English language learners:** 1%

**% of special education students:** 10%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 62%

**No response to survey questions**

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Philadelphia High School for Girls**

1400 W. Olney Ave., 19141  
Ph: 215-276-5258 Fax: 215-276-5738  
Parthenia Moore, Interim Principal  
Email: pmoore@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/girlshigh

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,103

**Admissions requirements (2009):** All As and Bs; Advanced or Proficient scores on PSSA Reading and Math; excellent attendance and punctuality (less than 8 absences, less than 5 latenesses); excellent behavior (no suspensions or disciplinary actions)

**Student racial demographics:**

African American - 64% Latino - 8%  
Asian - 17% White - 10% Other - 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%

**% of special education students:** 2%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 58%

**New this year:** 3-year, \$10,000 grant from Asia Group to infuse Chinese language and culture into curriculum; enhanced relationship with sister school in China and new sister school in Baltimore; Evening of Arts, Dance and Music written, choreographed and showcased through efforts of students and faculty; opportunities for dual enrollment

**Recent improvements:** *Philadelphia Magazine* voted Girls' High "Best Art Department for 2009 -2010"; increase in International Baccalaureate diplomas awarded; 100% of graduating seniors received scholarships, grants or awards; increasing numbers of students accepted into Ivy League universities; lacrosse; badminton; bowling

**Points of pride:** 162 years of preparing young women for success in college and leadership in their chosen fields; 97% of June graduates will attend college; International Baccalaureate Diploma Program offered as well as numerous AP courses; on-site art gallery and dance studio; National Honor Societies in Foreign Language, Science, Math and overall academics; annual career day

**AP courses:** US History, Government and Politics, Studio Art, Art History, Biology, Calculus, English

(continued on page 22)

**WE COVER ALL UNINSURED**

**and teens too!**



call 1-800-464-KIDS  
www.caringfoundation.com

The Independence Blue Cross & Highmark Blue Shield Caring Foundation For Children, in agreement with Keystone Health Plan East, independent licensees of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association, is an administrator of the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP). For additional information regarding CHIP, call 1-800-986-KIDS or visit www.chipcoverskids.com. 2008-0007 (04/08)

**SPECIAL ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, Macro-economics, Environmental Science, Mandarin Chinese

**Foreign languages:** Latin, French, Spanish, Chinese

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper *The Iris*, literary magazine *Calliope*, school play, instrumental and vocal performances twice a year, arts and dance performance or show yearly, 60-member orchestra, 75-member choir, social and service clubs, Eco Club and recycling drive, Red Cross Club, charity events, culture clubs

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Golf, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Gymnastics, Badminton\*, Bowling, Lacrosse

**Titles/Championships won:** Volleyball Public League AAAA Champion 2009; Softball Public League AAAA Champion 2009; Badminton Public League Champion 2009; Track & Field Public League 3rd Place District XII Shot-Put Champion 2009

**W. B. Saul High School for**

**Agricultural Sciences**

7100 Henry Ave., 19128  
Ph: 215-487-4467 Fax: 215-487-4844  
Wendy Shapiro, Principal  
Email: wshapiro@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/saul

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 552  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Score in the 70th percentile or above on PSSA or other test(s); As and Bs (one C allowed); good behavior, punctuality, and attendance (less than 15 absences and/or latenesses in prior years)

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 62% Latino – 11%  
Asian – 1% White – 24% Other – 2%

**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 9%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 59%  
**Recent improvements:** School climate; peer mediation and conflict resolution have been successful

**Points of pride:** NW region Teacher of the Year, Julie Steiner; Winning FFA Teams; featured in periodicals; featured on America's Heartland TV series; citywide student government



Harvey Finkle

**Parkway West High School introduces students to careers in teaching and is one of three urban education academies in the School District.**

president is a Saul senior; largest agricultural school in PA

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Agriculture AP courses: English, Government, Environmental Science

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** Competitive agricultural teams that participate nationwide

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country

**Girls' sports:** Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Volleyball

**Science Leadership Academy**

55 N. 22nd St., 19103  
Ph: 215-979-5620 Fax: 215-567-2809  
Chris Lehmann, Principal  
Email: clehmann@scienceleadership.org  
www.sla.fi.edu

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 485  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Excellent scores

on PSSA; 75th percentile on standardized exams; As and Bs (one C allowed); teacher or counselor recommendation; interview; good attendance, punctuality, and behavior; week-long summer science institute for all incoming 9th graders

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 50% Latino – 7%  
Asian – 7% White – 35% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 5%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 49%  
**Points of pride:** Partnership with The Franklin Institute; named as an Apple Distinguished School in 2010; Featured as a "Cool School" in *Edutopia* magazine; inquiry-driven, project-based curriculum; four-year advisory program; national model for the School 2.0 movement

**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Rocket Press*; student-written and

**TYPES OF HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Special admission high schools** These 17 high schools have specific admissions requirements in the areas of test scores, grades earned in core subjects, and attendance and behavior records. Two other schools have special admissions programs within them. Students across the city may apply.

**Citywide admission high schools** Students citywide are eligible to apply to these 12 high schools, and those who meet the criteria are entered into a lottery. Each school has different admissions criteria, but most require that students have passing grades in all major subjects and maintain a good attendance, behavior, and punctuality record.

**Neighborhood high schools** These 32 schools have geographic boundaries; students are guaranteed admission if their school for grade 8 falls within the feeder pattern. Those living outside of the feeder pattern may also apply, but admission is based on available space and determined through a lottery.

**Charter high schools** There are 29 charters serving the high school grades. They are not District-operated – each functions as an independent district. Any Philadelphia student may apply to any charter school, and schools are required to choose students by lottery if there are more applicants than slots. They are not allowed to exclude applicants based on grades or test scores or other aspects of their record. But each school has its own procedures and deadlines, as well as different interview, orientation, and paperwork requirements for students and parents before enrollment is guaranteed.

# Get To Know La Salle University

## By enrolling in our Certificate Program in Classroom Management

### Student Resilience and Independence

- Provides the knowledge and skills necessary to help students improve self-control
- Places educators in the position of helping children develop internal control of their own behavior
- Promotes a moral and ethical dimension to intervention
- Integrates the fields of counseling, criminal justice/sociology, and education
- Creates a focus on social justice, restorative justice, and common issues that arise in schools

For further information, please contact:

Harris Lewin, Ed.D.  
Director  
Graduate Programs in Education  
lewin@lasalle.edu

1900 West Olney Avenue, Olney Hall 112  
Philadelphia, PA 19141 USA  
Phone: 215.951.1806  
Fax: 215.951.1843



**SPECIAL ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**

(CONTINUED)

directed plays yearly; Engineering Club; Science Club; Improv Club; Young Women's Empowerment; Gay-Straight Alliance; chess team; Yoga; Art Club; courses built around five core values: Inquiry, Research, Collaboration, Presentation and Reflection; 9th grade Wednesdays at The Franklin Program; 10th & 11th grade Individualized Learning Program; Senior Capstone; senior courses include Urban Ecology, Anatomy & Physiology, Globalization, Political Economy, Storytelling, and African-American Literature; electives include Engineering, Digital Filmmaking, Ceramics, Computer Science  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, Ultimate Frisbee\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Ultimate Frisbee\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** Division Winner, Softball, 2009-2010

**SPECIAL ADMISSION PROGRAMS WITHIN OTHER HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Academy of Process Technology at Bok**

1901 S. 9th St., 19148  
 Ph: 215-952-6200 Fax: 215-952-641  
 Arthur L. Melton, Principal  
 Email: amelton@phila.k12.pa.us  
 www.bok.phila.k12.pa.us

**Admissions requirements (2009):** As and Bs in major subjects with exception of one C; proficient or advanced on PSSA reading and math; 75th percentile on standardized exams; interest interview; excellent behavior/attendance/punctuality record  
 See Bok under Citywide admissions for more information

**Northeast Magnet (at Northeast High School)**

1601 Cottman Ave., 19111  
 Ph: 215-728-5018 Fax: 215-728-5004  
 Linda Carroll, Principal  
 Email: lmcarroll@phila.k12.pa.us  
 www.nehs.phila.k12.pa.us

**Admissions requirements (2009):** No less than a B in any subject; must score in the 85th percentile or above on the PSSA; good attendance  
 See Northeast under Neighborhood High Schools for more information

**CITYWIDE ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Edward Bok Technical High School**

1901 S. 9th St., 19148  
 Ph: 215-952-6200 Fax: 215-952-6410  
 Arthur L. Melton, Principal  
 Email: amelton@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/bok

**2009-10 enrollment:** 919  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports.  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 72% Latino – 7%  
 Asian – 15% White – 5% Other – 1%  
**% of English language learners:** 6%  
**% of special education students:** 17%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 84%  
**New this year:** Implementing a school-wide intervention to improve literacy using cooperative learning  
**Recent improvements:** Added 45 security cameras; setting up new disciplinary process; setting up \$50 million in capital planning for 2011  
**Points of pride:** Prepare students for high-paying jobs; college preparation; 70% of seniors attend college; made AYP past 5 years; listed in *US News & World Report* as 1 of best 9 and acknowledged by PA as one of the top CTE schools

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Culinary; Carpentry; Criminal Justice; Computer Repairs; Nursing Technology; Engineering Related Technology; Accounting; Business Technology; Sports Marketing  
**AP courses:** Environmental Science, English Literature, American History  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Two arts festivals held in 2009-10; art and music programs; 40-member boys' choir; National Honor Society; robotics class and club; drama club  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** Football, five-year Division Champions

**Communications Technology High School**

8110 Lyons Ave., 19153  
 Ph: 215-492-6959 Fax: 215-492-6074  
 Saliyah Cruz, Principal  
 Email: scruz@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/commtech

**2009-10 enrollment:** 436  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Interview with staff; portfolio and essay questions  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 94% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 2% White – 3% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 13%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 76%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Track & Field  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2008 Public League A Football Championship

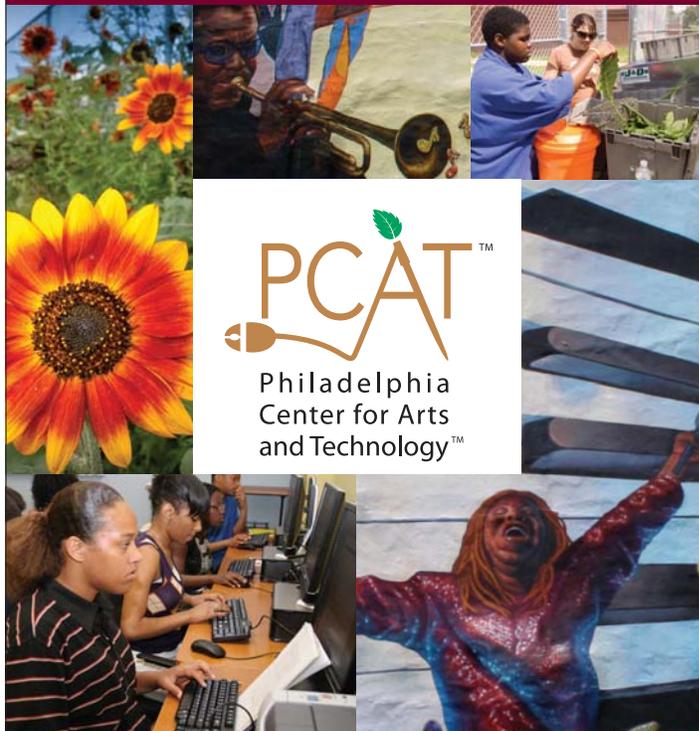
**Constitution High School**

18 S. 7th St., 19106  
 Ph: 215-351-7310 Fax: 215-351-7694  
 Thomas Davidson, Principal  
 Email: trdavidson@phila.k12.pa.us  
 www.philasd.org/schools/constitution

**2009-10 enrollment:** 384  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Excellent attendance and behavior record; written essay; personal interview  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 66% Latino – 8%  
 Asian – 4% White – 20% Other – 2%  
**% of English language learners:** 4%  
**% of special education students:** 9%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 61%  
**New this year:** Fifth year in existence; expansion of guidance services; full inclusion of special education, gifted, and ELL services  
**Recent improvements:** Provides an interdisciplinary academic program revolving around active citizenship, knowledge of history, and democratic deliberation; partnerships with the National Constitution Center, Gilder Lehrman Institute of American History, Ballard Spahr law firm, and Cheyney University; student wins in the National History Day Contest; debate team earned Team of the Year recognition; educational field trips; many teachers earning doctorate degrees  
**Points of pride:** Only social studies-themed high school in Pennsylvania; school governance modeled after U.S. Constitution; consistent AYP status; significant partnerships; service learning required of all students; national finalists in National History Day  
**AP courses:** United States History, Literature, Environmental Science

(continued on page 24)

**INVEST IN YOUR FUTURE**



**PCAT™**  
 Philadelphia Center for Arts and Technology™

**Register Now for Free Fall Classes**

Offering unique educational programs for youth and young adults, plus personal enrichment for community members of all ages.

Get specialized instruction in technology, music, visual arts, graphic design, and the "green" trades to help build your 21st century skills.

**Change your life and your community!**

**For more information or to register:**

267-297-6231  
 pcat@foundationsinc.org  
 www.pcatphilly.org

Visit PCAT at  
 2111-31 Eastburn Avenue  
 Philadelphia, PA 19138

Office of Pennsylvania State Representative Dwight Evans



**CITYWIDE ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Student Success Center:** 400 students served in 2009-10 school year; two full-time guidance counselors help maintain the College Success Center, along with graduate school interns and volunteers from service agencies

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *CHS Chronicles*; plays, one annually per drama club; 12-member senior choir; mock trial; debate; yearbook; Shakespeare; World Council; student government; National History Day; Science Fair; peer mediation; dual enrollment program

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Track & Field

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Track & Field

**Dobbins Career and Technical Education High School**

2150 W. Lehigh Ave., 19132  
Ph: 215-227-4421 Fax: 215-227-4944  
Charles M. Whiting, Principal  
Email: [cwhiting@phila.k12.pa.us](mailto:cwhiting@phila.k12.pa.us)  
[www.philasd.org/schools/dobbins](http://www.philasd.org/schools/dobbins)

**2009-10 enrollment:** 805

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 95% Latino – 4%  
Asian – 1% White – 0% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 2%

**% of special education students:** 13%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%

**New this year:** Development of a Forensic Science program

**Recent improvements:** 11th graders met AYP target on the PSSA

**Points of pride:** National Honor Society; Student Government Association; partnership with Lockheed Martin; partnership with Freedom Credit Union; robotics team  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Business; Culinary Arts; Cosmetology; Web Design; Baking; Barbering; Plumbing; Fashion Design; Advertising & Design  
**AP courses:** English, Government

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Student Success Center:** 400 students served in 2009-10; provides college and career counseling and scholarship information

**Activities & special academic programs:** African American History Month Assembly

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Tennis, Track & Field, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Titles/Championships won:** Boys basketball team, Division Champions

**High School of the Future**

4021 Parkside Ave., 19104  
Ph: 215-823-5502 Fax: 215-823-5504  
Rosalind Chivis, Principal  
Email: [rchivis@phila.k12.pa.us](mailto:rchivis@phila.k12.pa.us)

**2009-10 enrollment:** 477

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Admission by lottery: 75% neighborhood students, 25% citywide; students; students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 92% Latino – 2%  
Asian – 1% White – 4% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%

**% of special education students:** 12%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 84%

**New this year:** 9th grade and four other high schools will participate in the FLC Project, an interdisciplinary self-paced learning model; two conflict resolution specialists will join staff to address potential student hostilities

**Recent improvements:** 90% drop in discipline-related incidents in 2009-10; posted first substantial gains on PSSA test in school's 4-year history; a comprehensive family and student support system installed by combining academic, administrative, clinical, and discipline leadership in a proactive management team

**Points of pride:** 100% college acceptance for graduating class; extensive academic and business partnerships; strong and engaged learner leadership; innovative and progressive educators; one of the safest school climates in the region; first Farm-to-School district high school

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Microsoft certification being discussed

**AP courses:** Psychology, English Literature, Calculus

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Student Success Center:** 340 students served in 2009-10; provides college and career guidance, academic support

**Activities & special academic programs:** *The Wiz*; orchestra; jazz ensemble; drum corps; multiple student pop bands; 45-member band; Microsoft Digigirls; Verizon Tech Apprenticeships; debate team

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Track & Field, Bowling\*, Crew\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Bowling\*, Cheerleading (fall and winter)\*, Crew\*

“ I ALWAYS THOUGHT I HAD MISSED MY CHANCE TO GO TO COLLEGE... ”



THEN I FOUND EOC.”

**COLLEGE CAN HAPPEN FOR YOU TOO.**

The University of Pennsylvania Educational Opportunity Center offers FREE services to help West and Southwest Philadelphia residents apply to the colleges of their choice.

**215-573-8000**

Get started on your dreams.



**WWW.THENOTEBOOK.ORG**

Your source for independent news on the Philadelphia schools.

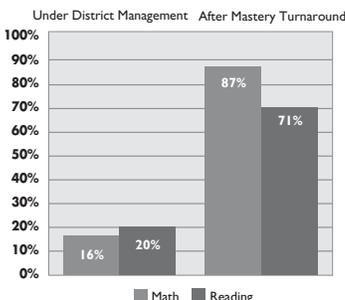


Mastery is leading the nation in turning around failing schools. We have closed the achievement gap, showing that it can be done in all schools. At the heart of our strategy is our commitment to our teachers.

- ✓ Individualized Teacher Coaching
- ✓ Tailored Leadership Development
- ✓ A Culture of Excellence
- ✓ Colleagues With a Shared Vision

Join us. Be part of the movement.

**Same Students. Outstanding Teachers. Breakthrough Results.**



7th Grade Pennsylvania Standardized Assessment 2006 before turnaround vs. 2009 after turnaround.

Mastery is expanding and is accepting applications for teaching and leadership positions for the 2010-2011 school year. Teach for America Alumni are particularly welcome.



**Mastery Charter Schools**  
Excellence. No Excuses.

215.866.9000 x 1055 • [www.masterycharter.org](http://www.masterycharter.org)



**Keystone STARS** is a continuous quality improvement program and rating system for early learning and school-age programs in Pennsylvania.

**Child Care Works** provides low-income working families with reliable access to child care, making them more likely to retain employment and be more productive at work.

**Pennsylvania Pre-K Counts** provides free, high quality pre-kindergarten opportunities to eligible three and four-year-olds.

For more information, visit [www.papromiseforchildren.com](http://www.papromiseforchildren.com) or contact Jason Kleinman at United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania at [jkleinman@uwsepa.org](mailto:jkleinman@uwsepa.org) or 215.665.2500

**Pennsylvania's Promise for Children**  
Because every child is Pennsylvania's future

GIVE. ADVOCATE. VOLUNTEER.  
**LIVE UNITED**



## CITYWIDE ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

### Jules Mastbaum Area

#### Vocational Technical School

3116 Frankford Ave., 19134  
Ph: 215-291-4703 Fax: 215-291-4807  
Mary Sandra Dean, Principal  
Email: msdean@phila.k12.pa.us  
www.philasd.org/schools/mastbaum

**2009-10 enrollment:** 897

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Attend on-site interview

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 55% Latino – 38%  
Asian – 2% White – 5% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 6%

**% of special education students:** 14%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 84%

**New this year:** New comprehensive cell phone policy; parent handbook

**Recent improvements:** Made AYP 2009 and 2010; excellent school climate with students taking ownership for behavior; discipline practices include in-house suspension, afterschool detention, peer mediation, and parental support through CSAP

**Points of pride:** Full academic and Advanced Placement programs; award-winning graphic design CTE program; Certified Nursing Assistant CTE program; Culinary Arts CTE program; newly renovated facility with new library

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Automotive Technology; Carpentry; Culinary Arts, Hotel, Restaurant & Tourism; Electrical Technology; Electromechanical Technology; Graphic Design; Health Technology/Certified Nursing Assistant; Information Technology-Business; Welding

**AP courses:** English Composition, U.S. Government, Environmental Science

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Baum*; 35-member choir; ASPIRA Club; Health Occupation Students of America (HOSA); student-to-student peer mediation program; Read 180; Study Island; Achieve 3000; college dual enrollment; advanced math/pre-calculus

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*

### Philadelphia High School for Business and Technology

540 N. 13th St., 19123  
Ph: 215-351-7375 Fax: 215-351-7377  
Rita J. Hardy, Principal  
Email: rhardy@philasd.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 181

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 90% Latino – 5%  
Asian – 0% White – 4% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%

**% of special education students:** 10%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 73%

**New this year:** ACE Mentoring, which attracts students into architecture, engineering, and construction careers

**Recent improvements:** Revitalization of student government, student court, and mock trials

**Points of pride:** 50-plus students scored Advanced or Proficient in reading; average daily attendance exceeds 90%; internships with the District; law office positions through the Bridges Program; in-school in-

ternships with Senior Residency Program; intramural basketball with sister school Parkway Center City  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Business & Technology

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** Senior residency; poetry slam

### Philadelphia Military Academy at Elverson

2118 N. 13th St., 19122  
Ph: 215-684-5091 Fax: 215-684-5507  
Robert Manning, Principal  
Email: rmanning@phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-10 enrollment:** 259

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Excellent attendance, punctuality, and citizenship; successful completion of mandatory summer training; must agree to abide by the JROTC Cadet Creed, wear the Army JROTC and PMA uniform in the prescribed fashion, and comply with standards on personal appearance

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 65% Latino – 29%  
Asian – 1% White – 5% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 3%

**% of special education students:** 8%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 76%

**New this year:** Additional technology and new programs to assist with student achievement; rowing, fencing, and martial arts may become available; addition of a Ranger platoon; Saturday SAT preparation

**Recent improvements:** Additional programs, technology, and personnel were purchased to increase students' academic success in math, writing, and science; integration of a collaborative Cadet Chain of Command and student government



Achuff Photography

**Doobbins Career and Technical Education High School's football team, the Mustangs, represents one of the 10 boys' sports offered at the school.**

**Points of pride:** 80% college attendance; state-of-the-art fitness center; dual college enrollment program; robotics program; first place in the JROTC citywide drill competition; various extracurricular activities/sports

**AP courses:** English, Government, Spanish

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Arabic

**Student Success Center:** Provides SAT, ACT, PSAT assistance; also assists with college guidance, financial aid preparation, and career guidance

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Bulldog*; 20-member choir; robotics club; chess; Red Cross/CPR Training; Unarmed Drill Team; Armed Drill Team; Color Guard; Raider Team; Ranger Platoon; Biathlon

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Softball

### Philadelphia Military Academy at Leeds

1100 E. Mt. Pleasant Ave., 19150  
Ph: 215-248-6650 Fax: 215-248-6654  
Patricia Randoz, Principal  
Email: prandoz@philasd.org  
www.philadelphia.ma.com

**2009-10 enrollment:** 296

**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Excellent attendance, punctuality, and citizenship; successful completion of mandatory summer training; must agree to abide

(continued on page 26)



## Philadelphia Futures helps students achieve their dream of a college education

### Does your student...

- Attend a Philadelphia neighborhood public high school?
- Qualify for free or reduced price lunch?
- Achieve good grades, attendance, and behavior marks in school?
- Have the desire to excel in school, attend college, and obtain a college degree?

### The Sponsor-A-Scholar Program give students the skills, resources, and opportunities they need to succeed in college and in life, including:

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| • A mentor                             | • Personalized college guidance             |
| • \$6,000 for college related expenses | • Assistance with financial aid             |
| • After-school enrichment classes      | • Access to computers                       |
| • Individual tutoring                  | • Sporting events and cultural performances |
| • Summer academic programs             | • Visits to college campuses                |

Applications are now being accepted for members of the Classes of 2012, 2013 and 2014. For more information, please call 215-790-1666 ext. 13 or visit [www.philadelphiafutures.org](http://www.philadelphiafutures.org).



## PHILADELPHIA'S CHARTER SCHOOL RESOURCE

### Current Availabilities

**Center City**  
1209 G St. Street  
36,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status

**Germantown**  
5847 Germantown Avenue  
36,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status  
Outside play/parking areas

6452 Greene Street  
12,000+/- Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status  
Outside play/parking areas

**North Philadelphia**  
948-54 N. 8th Street  
15,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status

1901 W. Tioga Street  
12,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status  
Outside play area

1826 W. Lehigh Avenue  
180,000 Sq. Ft. • Outside play/parking areas

**Logan Section**  
4826 N. 11th St.  
16,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status  
Outside play area

**West Philadelphia**  
801-43 N. 48th St.  
26,000 Sq. Ft. • Signature Bldg. Status  
Outside play area/parking area

## CORPORATE REALTY

Partners & Co., Inc.

*Real Estate Development  
Brokerage • Sales • Leasing*

**215-922-7810 x306**

JTTravers@crp-co.com  
[www.crp-co.com](http://www.crp-co.com)

**CITYWIDE ADMISSION HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 25)

by the JROTC Cadet Creed, wear the Army JROTC and PMA uniform in the prescribed fashion, and comply with standards on personal appearance

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 82% Latino – 12%  
Asian – 1% White – 4% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 3%  
**% of special education students:** 9%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 62%

**New this year:** Spanish; jazz band  
**Points of pride:** Honor school with distinction-Gold Star; 92% attending post high school education; first place in JROTC Academic Challenge; first place for four years in a row for physical fitness; 2nd place in mock trial team competition; 2nd place in citywide drill competition

**AP courses:** English Literature, English Language  
**Foreign languages:** Arabic, Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Knight Scroll*; 60-member band  
**Boys' sports:** Partners with Germantown High School sports program  
**Girls' sports:** Partners with Germantown High School sports program

**A. Philip Randolph Career Academy**

3101 Henry Ave., 19129  
Ph: 215-227-4407 Fax: 215-227-5087  
Peggy Johnson, Principal  
Email: pjohanson@phila.k12.pa.us  
www.philasd.org/schools/randolph

**2009-10 enrollment:** 406  
**Admission requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Students must attend on-site interview

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 92% Latino – 6%  
Asian – 1% White – 1% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 12%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 75%

**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Golf, Softball, Track & Field

**Paul Robeson High School for Human Services**

4125 Ludlow St., 19104  
Ph: 215-823-8207 Fax: 215-823-8252  
Hiromi Hernandez, Principal  
Email: hhernandez@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/robeson

**2009-10 enrollment:** 306  
**Admissions requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 97% Latino – 2%  
Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 12%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 73%

**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field

*Become part of our growing, informed community.*

*Sign up to be a Notebook member! See p. 36 or go to*

**WWW.THENOTEBOOK.ORG**

**Swenson Arts and Technology High School**

2750 Red Lion Rd., 19114  
Ph: 215-961-2009 Fax: 215-961-2081  
David Kipphut, Principal  
Email: dkippnut@phila.k12.pa.us  
www.swenson.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-10 enrollment:** 791  
**Admission requirements (2009):** Students must meet 3 of the following 4 criteria: Marks of A, B, or C; no more than 10 absences; no more than 5 latenesses; no negative disciplinary reports on the most recent final report card. Students must attend on-site interview

**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 32% Latino – 20%  
Asian – 5% White – 43% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 5%  
**% of special education students:** 17%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 58%

**New this year:** Establish alignment of core instructional standards with the career and technical curriculum; increasing English and math honors classes to all grades

**Recent improvements:** Working with Technical Centers That Work, including staff development to improve student achievement and technical site assistance visit; selected to participate in a pilot program to assist CTE teachers in analyzing data from the NOCTI exams

**Points of pride:** 14 career technology education areas; Technical Centers That Work initiative; 21st century skills college prep/industry certifications; community service projects with industry partners; service opportunities on Fox Chase Farm Campus; partnering projects with universities/businesses

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Allied Health Occupations; Computer Systems Networking; Construction Technology (Carpentry, Electricity, Plumbing); Culinary Arts; Baking and Pastry Arts; Hotel Restaurant Management; Transportation Technology; Digital Media Arts

**AP courses:** English Literature, American History  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Swenson ROAR*; band performs with Washington HS; choir in development; ROTC/SAAT prep classes; dual enrollment with local universities

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Track & Field  
**Titles/Championships won:** AA State Champions in Girls' Track

**NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS**

**Charles V. Audenried High School**

3301 Tasker St., 19145  
Ph: 215-952-4801 Fax: 215-952-4805  
Terry Pearsall-Hargett, Principal  
Email: tpearsallhargett@phila.k12.pa.us  
www.audenried.org

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 334 (grades 9, 10 & 11)  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 95% Latino – 2%  
Asian – 1% White – 2% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 1%  
**% of special education students:** 25%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 93%

**New this year:** Talent Development Center; expanded athletics; expanded tutoring opportunities and extracurriculars; Advanced Placement courses; all 11th graders take the SAT

**Recent improvements:** Students met AYP test score targets for 2010; changes to climate protocols enhanced the learning atmosphere; identified as the South Region Talent Development Center; identified as a PAL site; continued relationship with the Sonny Hill League to help build tomorrow's leaders; added 11th grade; plans to broaden the health and electrical programs of study  
**Points of pride:** New state-of-the-art facility; three computer labs; Promethean boards in every class; 87% of students promoted to the next



Dave Tavani

**Swenson Arts and Technology High School's 4x100 girls relay team is the two-time defending state AA champions.**

grade; expansion of PIAA sports  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Health Program of Study; Electrical Program of Study

**AP courses:** English, Math  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** CHAMP - community health program; mock trial; student council; digital arts; tutoring

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Lacrosse, Track & Field, Golf\*, Rowing\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Golf\*, Rowing\*, Cheerleading

**John Bartram High School**

2401 S. 67th St., 19142  
Ph: 215-492-6450 Fax: 215-492-6117  
Constance McAlister, Principal  
Email: cmcalister@philasd.org

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,243  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 93% Latino – 1%  
Asian – 4% White – 2% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 7%  
**% of special education students:** 20%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 84%

**New this year:** AP Art; AP Science; Family Resource Center

**Recent improvements:** Third year since being removed from Persistently Dangerous Schools list; reduction in student absences due to suspensions

**Points of pride:** Summer Bridge – Go Green Program; DOL grant extension for year four; butterfly garden; nine teachers have received principal certification; Ecosystem Science Display at Convent

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Web design  
**AP courses:** Art, Environmental Science, English Literature, English Language

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** Provides peer mentoring, WorkReady integration, internships, case management, conflict resolution, SSC Services

**Activities & special academic programs:** Jazz quartet; 22-member voice choir; student government; drama program; 3 Honors Math; 3 Honors English; 3 Honors Science; 3 Honors Social Studies

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Tennis

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading

**Titles/Championships won:** Semi-finals for Soccer, Public League 4A Champs for Football, City Champs for Small Division for Cheerleading

**Charles Carroll High School**

2700 E. Auburn St., 19134  
Ph: 215-291-4707 Fax: 215-291-5174  
Joyce A. Hoog, Principal  
Email: jhoog@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/carroll

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 472  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 21% Latino – 25%  
Asian – 1% White – 53% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 4%  
**% of special education students:** 18%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%

**New this year:** A new discipline team will focus on providing more positive incentives for excelling students.

**Recent improvements:** Preliminary data shows significant gains in math and reading on the PSSA, which the school credits to its Adopt-an-Anchor program.

**Points of pride:** Adopt-an-Anchor program for the PSSAs; dual enrollment program; mentoring program; school safety; technology available to staff and students; school grounds beautification; program in math/science

**AP courses:** Psychology  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Activities & special academic programs:** Intro to Lit course for rising 10th graders; Geometry by Design

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Soccer

**Stephen A. Douglas High School**

2700 E. Huntingdon St., 19125  
Ph: 215-291-4705 Fax: 215-291-4783  
Patricia Parson, Principal  
Email: pparson@philasd.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 298  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 33% Latino – 39%  
Asian – 1% White – 26% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 7%  
**% of special education students:** 37%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 84%

**New this year:** Building Management and Maintenance, an instructional program that prepares students to maintain and repair residential and commercial buildings that can lead to certification;

Engineering and Technology, offered through a Career and Technology Education Program and Project Lead The Way; Commercial Advertising and Art, in which students will use graphic arts and technology to create commercial-grade advertising for local enterprises; 9th Grade Academy that includes a Freshman Seminar course designed to address study and social skills.

**Recent improvements:** Transformed into a small comprehensive high school hosting three Career and Technical Education Programs; all students can choose one of three high-priority state career programs

**Points of pride:** National Academic League; New Career and Technology Education Program; highest attendance percentage in region; mid-Atlantic Coalition of Essential Schools; nurturing environment Career & Technical Education programs; Building Maintenance and Managers; Engineering and Technology - Project Lead the Way; Commercial Advertising and Art

**AP courses:** Psychology, English Literature, American History  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish; contracts with on-line classes for any language students need

## NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS

(CONTINUED)

**Student Success Center:** No, but offers Saturday Academy with enrichment and remedial activities; grade and credit recovery classes are also offered

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Douglas Dragon*; music program; National Academic League; dual enrollment; work-based program

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Soccer (fall), Volleyball (Has partnered with Mastbaum for football, baseball, and any sport Mastbaum offers)

**Titles/Championships won:** Girls Division Soccer Champs

### Thomas Alva Edison High School / John C. Fareira Skills Center

151 W. Luzerne St., 19140  
Ph: 215-324-9599 Fax: 215-329-5824  
Marilyn Perez, Principal  
Email: mperez@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/edison

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,892

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 16% Latino – 82%  
Asian – 1% White – 1% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 23%

**% of special education students:** 20%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 90%

**New this year:** Expansion of the music program with integration of a choir

**Recent improvements:** Significant increase in PSSA scores

**Points of pride:** Student and staff relationships; student council; athletics; AP and honors courses; Career and Technical Education programs; student-oriented clubs

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Vending; Computer Graphics; Welding; Auto Mechanics; Culinary Arts; Materials Management; Child Care; HVAC; Computer Repair; Health Related Technology; Medical Records; Accounting; Business; Cosmetology; Electrical Maintenance; and Radio/TV

**AP courses:** Spanish, English, History, Statistics, Environmental Science

**Foreign languages:** Spanish; French

**Student Success Center:** Provides post-secondary orientation, field trips, FAFSA application and scholarship application assistance

**Activities & special academic programs:** Jazz Band; Journalism Club; Drama; Music & Arts; Theater; Honors Math & English

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Cheerleading\*, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*, Badminton\*

### Samuel S. Fels High School

5900 Langdon St., 19124  
Ph: 215-537-2516 Fax: 215-537-2556  
Eileen Coutts, Principal  
Email: ecoutts@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/fels

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,586

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 71% Latino – 18%  
Asian – 9% White – 2% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 11%

**% of special education students:** 18%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 73%

**New this year:** Dance studio; swim team; drama program; music technology instruction with 30 new keyboards connected to Macs; math program that loans students a graphing calculator to complete assignments at home

**Recent improvements:** Implementation of a literacy initiative focused on reading and writing across the curriculum; added a strict discipline policy that has resulted in a reduction in suspensions and serious incidents; PSSA proficiency in math and reading has doubled in 2010; addition of new student-centered programs

**Points of pride:** National Honor Society Blood Drive; Unity Through Diversity motto; state-of-the-art building, including a pool; daily news broadcast; school newspaper; sports teams

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Business Tech; Radio Television Film; Xerox publishing partnership

**AP courses:** History, American Literature, Statistics

**Foreign languages:** French, Spanish

**Student Success Center:** Will open in January 2011

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper, *Fels Review*; plays to come in 2010-11; 35-member band; 30-member choir; dance program; drum line; drill team; Arts Futures; debate team; Gay Straight Alliance; chess; weightlifting; Science and Humanities Academy, with courses in forensics, biotech, engineering, robotics, psychology, creative writing, journalism, yearbook, and street law; Creative and Performing Arts Academy, with courses in dance, music, music tech, choir, theatre, drawing, painting, and sculpture

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Swimming, Cheerleading\*, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball, Tennis, Bowling, Track & Field, Volleyball, Swimming, Cheerleading\*, Badminton\*

### Young Men's Leadership School at FitzSimons High School

2601 W. Cumberland St., 19132  
Ph: 215-227-4431 Fax: 215-227-8662  
Daryl Overton, Principal  
Email: doverton@philasd.org

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 418

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 98% Latino – 1%  
Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 0%

**% of special education students:** 23%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 89%

**New this year:** The District has adopted curriculum programs that promote the use of technology, allowing for strategies and tools for teachers to reach all students; will examine our students' Individual Learning Plans and address their weaknesses while building on strengths; additional interventions for struggling students, and AP opportunities for students needing a challenge

**Recent improvements:** Consistently adding programs to promote growth and confidence; provides services and programs such as: Summer Search Leadership Program, Job Shadowing, Upward Bound, Boys 2 Men Rights to Passage and Fitness, and Young Men in Motion Mentoring Program

**Points of pride:** Only all-male, African American high school in PA; small class sizes; caring staff and faculty; College Access Program; Delaware Valley College Tour Program; Nu-Sigma Enrichment Program

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Working to implement a CTE program for the 2010-11 school year

**AP courses:** English Literature/Composition, Statistics, History, Spanish

**Foreign languages:** Spanish

**Student Success Center:** Served about 150 students last year; serves as the hub for student engagement in employment, post-secondary education and career readiness, social support services, and leadership development; will equip students to be successful in employment, trade school, or college

**Activities & special academic programs:** Band; chess; extended-day Voyager programs; grade improvement and credit recovery programs; Read180; Study Island; Apangea; plans to introduce Achieve 3000, Scholastic Expert 21, and Kaplan college-prep programs for the new school year.

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Football, Lacrosse, Soccer, Track & Field

### Frankford High School

5000 Oxford Ave., 19124  
Ph: 215-537-2519 Fax: 215-537-2598  
Reginald Fisher, Principal  
Email: rfisher2@philasd.org  
www.frankfordhs.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,749

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 62% Latino – 27%  
Asian – 2% White – 8% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 6%

**% of special education students:** 22%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 83%

**New this year:** French; DOL grant to support efforts to improve school climate/culture

**Recent improvements:** Gains in PSSA scores; goal is to establish a culture of mutual dignity and respect whereby we demonstrate the school's core value – "children come first"

**Points of pride:** Varsity Cheerleading Team-Public League Champions; JROTC-Districtwide award winners; Culinary Arts-Rachael Ray Show-CBS Sunday Morning; celebration of 100 years; basketball/play-offs/football/"Friday Night Lights"; teen court

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Building Maintenance; Culinary Arts

**AP courses:** Government, US History, Physics, Calculus, English

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French

**Student Success Center:** Served 1,186 students in 2009-10 school year in areas of careers, post-secondary awareness, and social and academic assistance

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Pioneer*; plays, including *Wipeout*; 30-member band; Anime Club; book club; dance; debate; National Honor Society; student government; yearbook; honors classes; teen court; ceramics

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*

### Benjamin Franklin High School

550 N. Broad St., 19130  
Ph: 215-299-4662 Fax: 215-299-7285  
Barbara McCreery, Principal  
Email: bmccreery@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/benfranklin

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 676

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 89% Latino – 7%

Asian – 3% White – 1% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 4%

**% of special education students:** 23%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%

**No response to survey questions**

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Tennis, Track & Field

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball

### Horace Furness High School

1900 S. 3rd St., 19148  
Ph: 215-952-6226 Fax: 215-952-8635  
Timothy McKenna, Principal  
Email: tmckenna@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/furness

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 643

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 47% Latino – 9%  
Asian – 31% White – 12% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 21%

**% of special education students:** 22%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 76%

**New this year:** Expansion of Advanced Placement opportunities for students; 9th and 10th grade honors programs in math and English; junior varsity football

**Recent improvements:** Upgraded 10 classrooms with classroom-of-the-future technology; opened a new training facility for student-athletes and staff members; new foyer mosaic tile mural dedicated to William Shakespeare and Horace Howard Furness; renovated cafeteria; partnered with Project Pride to coordinate peer mediation program

**Points of pride:** Cultural diversity; Philadelphia Academics Inc. partnership; expansion of Advanced Placement courses; Career Choices Freshmen Seminar Program; 20 Classrooms of the Future

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Business Technology

**AP courses:** Chemistry, Physics, Calculus,

(continued on page 28)

## Celebrates over 25 years of keeping children in school.

### WORKFORCE AND SCHOOL SUPPORT SERVICES

#### Alternative Education

Southwest E3 Power Center  
(Education, Employment and Empowerment)  
Oasis Academy  
Performance Learning Center

#### In School Programs

Culinary and Hospitality Program  
National Academy Foundation  
Student Success Centers  
Teen Court

#### Workforce Development

Health Tech  
Philadelphia Freedom Schools  
Start on Success\*  
WorkReady Philadelphia  
Urban Technology Project

### ELECT & SOCIAL SERVICES

ELECT Teen Parent Classrooms  
-Ladies of Learning  
Males Achieving Responsibility  
Successfully (MARS)  
-Men of Distinction  
Middle Years Program

#### Out of School Time

Middle Grades Program  
Saturday School

### SOCIAL SERVICES

Diplomas NOW  
Integrated Student Services Program (ISS)

### SPECIALTY PROJECTS

Financial Literacy  
Volunteerism



Communities  
In Schools

Philadelphia

\* Internship Program for Students with Special Needs

**Martin Nock, President & CEO**  
2000 Hamilton Street, Suite 201 | Philadelphia, PA 19130  
Phone: 267.386.4600 | Fax: 267.330.0164 | info@cisph.org | www.cisph.org



## NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 27)

Government, American History, English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition

**Foreign languages:** Chinese, Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** No, but has a Homework Zone that provides tutoring for students Mon.-Thurs. from 3:15-4:30 p.m.; offers computer access  
**Activities & special academic programs:** 30-member choir; debate team, drama club, Gift of Life Club, ASPIRA Leadership Club, FBLA Club, Gaming Club, student government; Career Choices Freshman Seminar Program; Philadelphia Academies Inc. Partnership-Urban Educators Academy and Hotel, Restaurant, Travel & Tourism Academy  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Swimming\*, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Golf, Gymnastics, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Swimming\*, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2009 PIAA playoff football team

### Germantown High School

40 E. High St., 19144  
 Ph: 215-951-4004 Fax: 215-843-8946  
 Margaret Mullen-Bavwidinski, Principal  
 Email: mmullen@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/germantown

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,082  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 30%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 83%  
**New this year:** Single school culture program; Home & School Association; expanded Saturday school program; freshman academy called "Foundations"

**Recent improvements:** Changes in disciplinary practices through in-school suspension and use of empowerment team for attendance; DOL grant supports career and college specialists, social workers, resource personnel, mentoring, and internship programs; increased parental support  
**Points of pride:** Off Persistently Dangerous Schools list; great school pride; increased graduation rate in 2010; increased attendance rate; great community support  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Culinary Arts; Graphic Arts; Business Tech  
**AP courses:** History, Psychology, Calculus, Government, English, Biology  
**Foreign languages:** French, Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Over 200 students served in 2009-10 school year

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Clipper*; plays, including *Fame* performed in 2009-10; 20-member band; varsity and junior varsity athletics; chess team; cheerleading; dance troupe; poetry club; CTEC classes; culinary arts; Honors English and Math  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

### Simon Gratz High School

1798 W. Hunting Park Ave., 19140  
 Ph: 215-227-4408 Fax: 215-227-7194  
 Vera L. White, Principal  
 Email: vwhite@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/gratz

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,255  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 97% Latino – 3%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 1%  
**% of special education students:** 21%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 89%  
**New this year:** More parent involvement; parents will have access to their child's academic

data; parent resource room for classes, school information, and community resources; every classroom will implement ABCD quadrant to increase student engagement and promote analytical thinking

**Recent improvements:** Used data to identify weaknesses and improve instructional strategies; common planning time; developed uniform procedures and discipline policies such as one hall pass and in-school suspension for minor infractions; in-staff meetings emphasized single school culture and importance of consistency in enforcing policies; Gratz Connection, where parents and students can access school information and peer mediation; parent ombudsman tracks truant students; student advisor advocates for students in resolving conflicts

**Points of pride:** Student Success Center; Advanced Placement courses; Culinary Arts Suite; student government; National Honor Society; Simon Gratz football

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Culinary Arts  
**AP courses:** English, American History, Calculus, Environmental Science

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** Served 150-200 students in 2009-10, helping to review college and vocational institutions; worked with 200 9th graders, providing goal setting and visiting a work location; placed 50 students in work-ready programs such as College Access, Work Ready, College Visits, Career Fair, and Peer Mentoring

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Bulldog Courier*; 30-member band; 15-member choir; bowling team; Neuroscience, Anatomy, Problem Solving, Statistics, Web Design, Journalism, Drama, Physics  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Tennis, Track & Field

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball  
**Titles/Championships won:** PIAA Championship in Football for 2009-10 school year

### Kensington High School for Business, Finance, and Entrepreneurship

2051 E. Cumberland St., 19125  
 Ph: 215-291-5168 Fax: 215-291-5708  
 Eileen Maicon-Weissman, Principal  
 Email: ehmaicon@philasd.org  
 www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/kensington

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 544  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 32% Latino – 55%  
 Asian – 2% White – 11% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 9%  
**% of special education students:** 29%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 90%

**New this year:** More teachers; more students in leadership positions; more celebrations, rewards, and field trips to move students forward

**Recent improvements:** Increased test scores; decreased suspensions and incidents; working on building school culture by adding a school business run by entrepreneurship class; increasing academic progress by motivating students with Advanced Placement classes; more student activities that motivate students to succeed

**Points of pride:** Great staff-student relationships; increase of 14% in reading and 3% in math scores; partnership with Deloitte and Philadelphia Academies Inc.; Citi Postsecondary Success Grant and college-going culture; new distributive leadership structure

**AP courses:** English Literature, English Composition, U.S. History

**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The "Biz" Buzz*; plays; stock market club; Entrepreneurship; Investment

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball



Harvey Finkle

**Bartram High School is marking its third year of successfully being removed from the state's "Persistently Dangerous Schools" list.**

### Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (CAPA)

1901 N. Front St., 19122  
 Ph: 215-291-5010 Fax: 215-291-6334  
 Debora Carrera, Principal  
 Email: dcarrera@philasd.org  
 www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/kensington-capa/students.html

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 505  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 33% Latino – 56%  
 Asian – 0% White – 10% Other – 0%

**% of English language learners:** 13%  
**% of special education students:** 21%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 89%  
**No response to survey questions**

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball

### Kensington High School for Culinary Arts

2463 Emerald St., 19125  
 Ph: 215-291-5185 Fax: 215-291-6320  
 James Williams, Principal  
 Email: james2williams@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/kensingtonculinary

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 513  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 31% Latino – 54%  
 Asian – 3% White – 11% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 11%  
**% of special education students:** 24%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 90%  
**No response to survey questions**

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball

### Kensington Urban Education Academy (new)

2501 E. Cumberland St., 19125  
 Ph: 215-291-5420 Fax: 215-291-5427  
 Michelle Burns, Principal  
 Email: miburns@philasd.org

**Projected enrollment:** 125 (9th grade only)  
**Student racial demographics:** NA (new school)  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Softball, Volleyball

### Martin Luther King High School

6100 Stenton Ave., 19138  
 Ph: 215-276-5253 Fax: 215-276-5844  
 Kristina Diviny, Principal  
 Email: kdiviny@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/k/mlking

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,164  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 1%

Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 1%

**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 27%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 74%  
**New this year:** Auto program; Allied Health and PETRI Chemical program for dual enrollment with CCP; interdisciplinary teams for maximized student support and data-driven instruction; integration of new greenhouse into curriculum; Texas Instruments Ti-Nspire math program

**Recent improvements:** Changed bell structure with warning bell, to ensure that students arrive to class on time; peer mediation program to reduce number of student conflicts; implemented targeted phrases: peace, respect, language, time to help with friendly reminders on a daily basis; lunchtime mentoring program, incorporated Study Island to help students succeed

**Points of pride:** Approved CTE auto and health-related technology programs; six small Pathway communities that are career linked; Technology Is Power (TIPS) lab offers Microsoft certification; Job Readiness Development Center has employed 1,000-plus students; King Marketplace sells fresh produce from school farm; comprehensive mural arts program for four years; competitive National Academic League team

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Automotive; Health Tech

**AP courses:** English Literature, English Language, Biology, US History, Calculus, Studio Art  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** Two centers: Job Readiness and Development Center (JRDC) and Counselors Suite. JRDC center served 400 students in 2009-10, placing them in part-time jobs and helping explore career options, write resumes, practice for interviews, and develop work-life balance skills. Counselors Suite served 1,100 students last year, assisting with scholarship information, school-to-career guidance, interpreting standardized test scores, developing and implementing guidance curriculum; student resources, and counseling.

**Activities & special academic programs:** School play; 20-member band; 25-member choir; drumline, Red Cross Club, ROTC, drama club; Northwest Scholar Program; Gear Up and Legacy programs; entrepreneurship programs; Seeds for Learning; Literacy Circle; Teens Go Green; Horticulture; Entrepreneurship

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer (Spring), Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*

### Robert E. Lambertson High School

7501 Woodbine Ave., 19151  
 Ph: 215-581-5647 Fax: NR  
 Deborah Jumpp, Principal  
 Email: djumpp@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/lambertonhs

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 258  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 97% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 0 White – 0% Other – 1%

## NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 12%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 57%  
**New this year:** Parent ombudsman; student adviser  
**Recent improvements:** Increase in PSSA scores in all academic areas; increased attendance; more parental involvement; successful peer mediation program; successful student government; implementation of in-school suspension program; implementation of wellness grant  
**Points of pride:** Philly Project Pride Mentoring Program; art mural grant; senior projects; entrepreneurial class; rowing club; peer mediation  
**AP courses:** English, Social Studies, Calculus, Economics  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Student government; yearbook; Anime Club; National Honor Society; advanced classes and dual enrollment; Classrooms for the Future program  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton\*

### Abraham Lincoln High School

3201 Ryan Ave., 19136  
 Ph: 215-335-5653 Fax: 215-335-5997  
 Donald Anticoli, Principal  
 Email: djanticoli@philasd.org  
 www.phila.k12.pa.us/schools/lincoln

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,726  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 41% Latino – 19%  
 Asian – 6% White – 34% Other – 1%  
**% of English language learners:** 5%  
**% of special education students:** 19%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 62%  
**New this year:** Football, baseball, softball, field hockey, tennis, and soccer fields; 233 mobile laptop units; 83 electronic whiteboards; applied for Urban Gardening and School Improvement Grants; awarded the Wawa/Mankco, et al LLP/ NBC 10 Environmental Community Service Grant, to create courtyard oases of green.  
**Recent improvements:** Average daily student attendance rose from 78% to 81% in 2009-10; engaged community through the Mayfair and Holmesburg Community Associations, as well as the alumni association, which provides over \$5,000 in scholarships annually; 25% decrease in suspensions and serious incidents; 96% staff attendance rate; PSSA scores rose nine points in reading and four points in math; a growing, certified Home & School Association  
**Points of pride:** New school building and athletic fields; 27 different boys' and girls' sports; 15 extracurricular clubs; partnership with Philadelphia Academics Inc. and Holy Family University  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Seeking approval for Health Related Sciences  
**AP courses:** Biology, Math, English, Chemistry, Environmental Science, American History, Government  
**Foreign languages:** American Sign Language, Chinese, Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Over 950 students served in 2009-10; provides college and career preparation, application services, financial aid workshops and seminars; students learn proper decorum, dress and interviewing techniques, and participate in career internships with Children's Hospital, Citizens Bank, and EducationWorks  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Chips*; plays: one in 2009-10, and a night of music and art; 43-member band; 27-member choir; six career academies – Business Technology, Environmental Science, Fine & Performing Arts, Health Related Sciences, Horticulture, and Law, in which over 1,200 students are enrolled, including 347 special needs, 46 deaf and hard of hearing, and 85 ELL students; 9th grade success academy, sponsored by \$5.7 million DOL mentoring grant  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Football, Golf, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Badminton\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Field Hockey, Golf,

Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*

### Northeast High School

1601 Cottman Ave., 19111  
 Ph: 215-728-5018 Fax: 215-728-5004  
 Linda Carroll, Principal  
 Email: lmcarrroll@philasd.org  
 www.nehs.phila.k12.pa.us/new

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 3,191  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 35% Latino – 16%  
 Asian – 21% White – 26% Other – 2%  
**% of English language learners:** 13%  
**% of special education students:** 13%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 50%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Golf, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Badminton\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2009 Public League Champion: Outdoor Track & Field

### Olney East High School

100 E. Duncannon Ave., 19120  
 Ph: 215-456-3014 Fax: 215-456-3064  
 Newton Brown, Principal  
 Email: neabrown@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/olneyeast

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 900  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 49% Latino – 39%  
 Asian – 7% White – 2% Other – 3%  
**% of English language learners:** 11%  
**% of special education students:** 23%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 89%  
**New this year:** Dropped Construction Technology  
**Points of pride:** AP English; AP Social Studies; honors for 10th grade core subjects; Health Tech Academy; Business Program; partnership with a theater company  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Health Technology  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *O Zone*; National Honor Society; Business  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Gymnastics, Soccer (spring), Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

### Olney West High School

100 W. Duncannon Ave., 19120  
 Ph: 215-456-0109 Fax: 215-456-0442  
 Barbara Wells, Principal  
 Email: Bawells@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/olneywest

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 847  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 61% Latino – 32%  
 Asian – 5% White – 1% Other – 1%  
**% of English language learners:** 11%  
**% of special education students:** 23%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%  
**New this year:** Parent center; Student Success Center; Freshman Academy  
**Recent improvements:** Increased opportunities for student voice and community involvement; peer mediation; full-time in-school suspension; Olney Arts Now partnership with Department of Labor, City Year, and Communities in Schools; enhanced college admissions support  
**Points of pride:** Mural Arts- local and citywide attention; Environthon Program-environmental education competition; Chess Club-local and national competition winners; mock trial, debate; dual enrollment-partnership with LaSalle University; National Honor Society – newly chartered chapter  
**AP courses:** Chemistry, Calculus, English Literature, US Government, US History, Spanish, Art/Drawing, Art

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** New for 2010-11 school year  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *OPAL Essence*; 20-member drumline; dance; math club; student government; teen court; weight club; yearbook; chess; National Honor Society; mock trial; mural arts  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling, Badminton\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Gymnastics, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*

### Overbrook High School

5898 Lancaster Ave., 19131  
 Ph: 215-581-5507 Fax: 215-581-3406  
 Ethelyn Payne Young, Principal  
 Email: eyoung@philasd.org  
 www.overbrookphiladelphia.com

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 1,595  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 1%  
 Asian – 0% White – 1% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 18%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 83%  
**New this year:** New members to the leadership team with expected enrollment of 400 incoming 9th graders; DOL grant supporting student success organizations – Arts and Spirituality, Diplomas Now, and Project Pride – and additional teachers and academic coaches  
**Recent improvements:** Upward movement of test scores; expecting continued movement across all grade levels  
**Points of pride:** Scholars Academy (94% college acceptance rate); nationally recognized mock trial team; Robotics Club (competed June 2010 in Hawaii); athletic program with competitive sports teams; ROTC; Student Success Center  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Drafting;

Health Medical Technologies; Accounting  
**AP courses:** American History, Calculus, English, English Literature, Psychology  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French  
**Student Success Center:** Served over 1,000 students in 2009-10; assists with college application process, provides career readiness workshops with paid student internships, employment readiness, community networking and university partnerships with University of Pennsylvania and Millersville University  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Orchestra; drumline; 32-member choir; National Honor Society; student government; art club; Instrumental Club; chess club; dance team; robotics; mock trial; radio station  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Indoor Track & Field, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer (spring & fall), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball

### Rhodes High School – Young Women's Leadership School

2900 W. Clearfield St., 19132  
 Ph: 215-227-4402 Fax: 215-227-4926  
 Anna Shurak, Interim Principal  
 www.philasd.org/schools/rhodes

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 482  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 1%  
 Asian – 0% White – 1% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 17%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 89%  
**New this year:** Continued focus on increasing academic achievement and ensuring that all students are prepared academically for college and success  
**Recent improvements:** Steady increase in reading and math PSSA scores over the past two years; school climate is welcoming and focused on personal  
 (continued on page 30)



Communities  
In Schools  
Philadelphia

## Celebrates over 25 years of students achieving their goals...

## Donate TODAY!



Join Communities In Schools of Philadelphia Society of Goal Keepers. Together we can provide life-changing programs and services for thousands of students throughout the Philadelphia School District.



**For more information:**  
 Please visit [www.cisphl.org/goal/](http://www.cisphl.org/goal/)  
 or contact Sandra Foster at (267) 386-4635  
 or [sfoster@cisphl.org](mailto:sfoster@cisphl.org)

Martin Nock, President & CEO  
 2000 Hamilton Street, Suite 201 | Philadelphia, PA 19130  
 Phone: 267.386.4600 | Fax: 267.330.0164 | [info@cisphl.org](mailto:info@cisphl.org) | [www.cisphl.org](http://www.cisphl.org)

**NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 29)

relationships  
**Points of pride:** 94% college acceptance rate; steady increase in achievement; all girls; College-bound Initiative; positive school climate; career institutes and job shadowing  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Accounting; Finance; Architecture  
**AP courses:** Calculus, US History, English  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** 10-member choir; charm school; Reading Olympics; mural art club; yearbook; Music and More; drill team; student government  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field, Field Hockey, Softball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2nd in all-city cheerleading championship

**Roxborough High School**  
 6498 Ridge Ave., 19128  
 Ph: 215-487-4464 Fax: 215-487-4843  
 Stephen Brandt, Principal  
 Email: sbrandt@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/roxborough

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 821  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 83% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 1% White – 13% Other – 1%  
**% of English language learners:** 2%  
**% of special education students:** 22%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 74%  
**New this year:** Plays; band; choir; upcoming AP Chemistry; AP Statistics; AP American History; AP Art; in progress for 2011-12 are additional academies with identified career and academic pathways  
**Recent improvements:** New administration and school vision; partnership with Citi Postsecondary Success Program and Philadelphia Education Fund to focus on improving student college preparation and college acceptance; adopted by PHEAA to support college-going initiatives; first year with 9th grade academy  
**Points of pride:** Criteria-based selection for specialized programs; state-of-the-art cinematography studio and classroom; award-winning animation and web design program; honors and Advanced Placement in core subjects; state-of-the-art class and mobile computer labs; distinguished JROTC program  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Web Design; Radio/TV; Business  
**AP courses:** English, Biology, Government  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Italian  
**Student Success Center:** None, but offers three guidance counselors, college access program, student advisor, parent ombudsman, social services liaison,



Rachel Milenbach for Weavers Way

**King High School operates a farm, launched in partnership with Weavers' Way Coop and City Year.**

and resource specialist  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Ridge Record*; band; choir; numerous before- and after-school activities; English Honors; African American History Honors; Algebra I & II Honors; World History Honors  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Tennis, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2008-09 Varsity Football Public League Division AAA Champs

**Sayre High School**  
 5800 Walnut St., 19139  
 Ph: 215-471-2904 Fax: 215-471-3486  
 Khalia Ames, Interim Principal  
 Email: kames@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/sayre

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 632  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 0% White – 1% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 1%  
**% of special education students:** 18%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%  
**New this year:** Incorporation of "Study Island" into instruction; Four for Forty-Four, a program for boys; inclusion model for special education and regular education students  
**Recent improvements:** Began our SMART detentions two days a week after school, which helped with Level I offenses and keeping suspensions down. Students were taught peer mediation skills and how to handle various situations. The program used Words Work curriculum, giving students ability to

discuss and reflect on choices; instituted in-house suspension program to lower out-of-school suspensions; both programs helped improve school climate  
**Points of pride:** Scholars Program; University of Pennsylvania collaboration; Project Grad collaboration; CTE Health Program; National Honor Society; student government  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** CTE Health Program

**AP courses:** U.S. History, English Language, Calculus  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Project Grad in conjunction with the PA Challenge Grant has a Student Success Center. About 225 students served in the 2009-10 school year. Provides students with tutoring, college and career awareness tools, assistance with completing applications for PSAT, SAT, ACT, FASFA, and college. Students can get tips on resume writing and college essays, and visit colleges.

**Activities & special academic programs:** 15-member band; 15-member choir; student government; Diplomacy Club; Environmental Club; Red Cross Club; talent show and musical concerts; Honors English; Honors Math; Honors World History  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field

**South Philadelphia High School**  
 2101 S. Broad St., 19148  
 Ph: 215-952-6220 Fax: 215-551-2275  
 Otis Hackney, Principal  
 Email: ohackney@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/southphila

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 948  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 69% Latino – 6%

Asian – 19% White – 5% Other – 1%  
**% of English language learners:** 16%  
**% of special education students:** 24%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%  
**New this year:** Mandarin Chinese, with plans to add more languages over the next few years; working with outside organizations to give students greater access to the arts  
**Recent improvements:** New principal; efforts to reconnect school with the South Philadelphia High School Alumni Association while developing new relationships with community partners to enhance cultural awareness among faculty, staff and students; efforts to improve climate and safety with the goals of raising the academic profile of the school and developing programs which reflect students' and parents' interests  
**Points of pride:** JROTC Program; ESOL/Bilingual program; teen court/peer mediation; culinary arts program; National Honor Society; Classrooms for the Future School

**AP courses:** US History, English, Calculus  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Project Grad  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Southern Charger*; yearbook, math, varsity, and chess clubs; afterschool accelerated math program; student ambassadors; weight training; Forensic Science  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** Boy's volleyball – District 12 AAA Champs; Varsity and JV football – Varsity Division Champs

**Strawberry Mansion High School**  
 3133 Ridge Ave., 19132  
 Ph: 215-684-5089 Fax: 215-684-5380  
 Byron Williams, Principal  
 Email: bwilliams@philasd.org

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 470  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 99% Latino – 1%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% of English language learners:** 0%  
**% of special education students:** 26%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 90%  
**New this year:** Principal; increase in CTE programs and community partnerships; expansion of boys' and girls' athletics

**Recent improvements:** Community stakeholders have been identified to address school being listed on Persistently Dangerous Schools list; careful monitoring of suspensions and disciplinary actions; supports given to students with disciplinary problems  
**Points of pride:** *U.S. News & World Report* 2009-2010 Bronze Medal Winner; dual enrollment program; Young Playwrights winners; robotics; Urban Nutrition Initiative; award-winning culinary arts department  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Culinary Arts  
**AP courses:** Government, Statistics, English, Art  
**Foreign languages:** French  
**Student Success Center:** Project Grad served 98 seniors with college preparation and provided tutors for 9th graders

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Roundtable*; 29-member band; mock trial team; Academy of Law; Creative and Performing and Culinary Arts Academy  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Tennis, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2010 District XII Champions

**University City High School**  
 3601 Filbert St., 19104  
 Ph: 215-387-5100 Fax: 215-387-6362  
 Timothy Stults, Principal  
 Email: tstults@philasd.org  
 www.philasd.org/schools/ucity

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 772  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 97% Latino – 1%

**We are seeking highly qualified, certified and long term substitute teachers for September 2010.**  
**We are also hiring teacher assistants and lunch room aides.**

Imani currently operates a K-8 charter school in the Germantown area of Philadelphia serving 450 students. We have made AYP for the past four out of five years and promote a spirit of excellence in our students.



EDUCATION CIRCLE CHARTER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

**IMANI EDUCATION CIRCLE CHARTER SCHOOL**

Please email your resume to [randerson@imanicircle.org](mailto:randerson@imanicircle.org) or for more information about the school visit [www.imanicharter.org](http://www.imanicharter.org)

- Qualifications:**
- Bachelor's Degree in subject matter areas or at least two years related teaching experience
  - Must have or be working towards a Pennsylvania Teacher Certification
  - Demonstrated expertise in subject area
  - A strong sense of personal accountability for student achievement
  - A belief that all students should be held to high academic standards
  - The ability to communicate effectively with parents
  - Demonstrated professionalism and responsibility, and a strong work ethic

- Benefits & Compensation**
- As a Regular Full Time Employee you will be eligible for fully paid medical benefits for you and your dependents. Our health coverage plans include dental and vision
  - Pennsylvania Public Service Employees Retirement Plan (PSERS)
  - Life Insurance of 1x your annual salary
  - Tuition reimbursement of up to \$1,000 annually for pre-approved certification or job related coursework.
  - Salary is commensurate to experience and relevant training.

## NEIGHBORHOOD HIGH SCHOOLS

(CONTINUED)

Asian – 1%      White – 1%      Other – 1%

% of English language learners: 2%

% of special education students: 25%

% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch: 89%

**New this year:** Named a Promise Academy; family field trips to colleges and other destinations; pool re-opened; Mandarin and Arabic offered; special education teachers and general education teachers will develop co-teaching programs to deliver special education services in the regular ed classroom; student-led conferences with a new advisory program

**Recent improvements:** Improvements in climate and safety through changes in the discipline policy and implementation; started a college-going culture; 80% of the 2010 graduating class was accepted to post-secondary educational opportunities

**Points of pride:** Offering 17 varsity sports; publishing the school's first literary magazine; offering courses in STEM focusing on GoGreen; Department of Labor grant to improve culture; student leadership and mentoring initiatives

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Transitional Job Skills

**AP courses:** Literature, Language and Composition, European History, American History, US Government, Statistics, Biology, Environmental Science, Chemistry

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Mandarin, Arabic

**Student Success Center:** Over 700 served in 2009-10, offering assistance with college preparation work, college applications, FAFSA, work readiness, leadership training, CollegeEd Implementation, program development, and PYN Internship Management

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Jaguar Times*; school plays, one in '09-'10; new band; 30-member choir; literary magazine; poetry club; art club; world language club; rowing club; Honors Anthropology; Peer Leadership; Instrumental and Vocal Music, with Music Mac Lab

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton, Rowing

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Gymnastics, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton, Rowing, Cheerleading\*

**Titles/Championships won:** Division champs in bowling in 3 of last 4 years

## Roberts Vaux High School

2300 W. Master St., 19121  
Ph: 215-684-5068 Fax: 215-684-5430  
William Wade, Principal  
Email: wwade@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/vaux

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 384

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 97%      Latino – 3%

Asian – 0%      White – 0%      Other – 0%

% of English language learners: 2%

% of special education students: 27%

% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch: 94%

**New this year:** New uniforms; new teaching staff and a renewed focus on student success; accountability for all

**Recent improvements:** Named a Promise Academy, at which students are exposed to external and internal enrichment activities, and dress uniforms are strictly enforced

**Points of pride:** Student success; diverse faculty and staff; strong external partnerships; parental partnerships; educational excursions; strong enrichment programs

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Nursing

**AP courses:** Spanish, French, English, Chemistry

**Foreign languages:** Spanish, French

**Student Success Center:** 200 students served in 2009-10; services and programs offered include America's Choice and credit recovery

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Vaux Voice*; plays, 15-member jazz band; 40-member choir; Archery; Culinary Arts; Boating; Biking; Hiking and Martial Arts

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field, Cross Country, (baseball and football in developmental stages)

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Track & Field, Cross Country

## George Washington High School

10175 Bustleton Ave., 19116  
Ph: 215-961-2001 Fax: 215-961-2545  
Kathy Pizzimenti-Murphy, Principal  
Email: kmurphy@philasd.org  
www.gwhs.phila.k12.pa.us

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 2,145

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 34%      Latino – 13%

Asian – 13%      White – 41%      Other – 0%

% of English language learners: 8%

% of special education students: 18%

% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch: 51%

**No response to survey questions**

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Football, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball, Wrestling

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Field Hockey, Soccer (spring), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Tennis, Track & Field, Volleyball

**Titles/Championships won:** 2008 Public League AAAA Football Championship

## West Philadelphia High School

4700 Walnut St., 19139  
Ph: 215-471-2902 Fax: 215-471-6402  
Osbourne Wright & LaVerne Wiley, co-Principals  
Email: owright@philasd.org & lwiley@philasd.org  
www.philasd.org/schools/westphila

**2009-2010 enrollment:** 829

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 97%      Latino – 1%

Asian – 1%      White – 0%      Other – 1%

% of English language learners: 3%

% of special education students: 19%

% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch: 85%

**New this year:** Additional foreign languages

**Recent improvements:** Upperclassmen participated in practice interviews, career exploration sessions, workplace visits, and speaker presentations; climate manager added to staff; major physical renovations in preparation for new building

**Points of pride:** Four new academic academies; award-winning JROTC; auto electrical vehicle team; 100-years celebration of school; college/community partners; student internships/college

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Automotive Technology Program, NATEF and ASE Certified

**AP courses:** English Language, English Literature, Micro-economics, US History

**Foreign languages:** French, Spanish

**Student Success Center:** 500 students served in the 2009-10 school year; provides assistance with college access, peer mentoring, post-secondary planning, and pathways to success

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *West Philly Westside Student Newspaper*; annual gospel fest and talent show; JROTC marching band and drumline-drill team; gospel choir and chorale; culinary club; Future Business Leaders America; National Honor Society; dual enrollment; Entrepreneurship

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Track & Field, Tennis, Volleyball, Badminton\*

**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Badminton\*, Cheerleading\*

## What's YOUR opinion?

### We want to know!

Write a letter to  
*Philadelphia Public School Notebook*

at:  
3721 Midvale Avenue  
Philadelphia, PA 19129  
Fax: 215-951-0342

E-mail: [notebook@thenotebook.org](mailto:notebook@thenotebook.org)  
Web: [www.thenotebook.org/contact](http://www.thenotebook.org/contact)

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

### Arise Academy Charter High School

1101 Ludlow St., 19107  
Ph: 215-563-1656  
Al Bichner, Interim School Leader  
Email: abichner@foundationsinc.org  
www.ariseacademichs.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 160

**Grades served:** 9-12

**Admissions requirements:** Must be in the foster care system, intent-to-enroll application, lottery

**Student demographics:** NA (new in 2009)

**New this year:** Entry into the Philadelphia Public Athletic League and PIAA District XII; teams in boys' and girls' basketball; working with After School Activities Partnerships (ASAP) to add programs in debate, music, and theater

**Recent improvements:** School has emerged as a "school of student choice and a school of student voice;" student recruitment committees produce PSAs for local media that highlight school strengths; reshaped uniform policy; repainted classrooms

**Points of pride:** Personalized learning environment; out-standing faculty; college connections and preparation; experiential learning focused on 21st century; strong community partnerships; supports for at-risk students

**Career & Technical Education programs:** Career and college preparation; partnership with Community College of Philadelphia to assist students with career certification programs

**Foreign languages:** French

**Student Success Center:** In partnership with Jefferson University Hospital, offers behavioral health supports; maintains full-time counselor and social worker; 3 student support aides assist students in and outside of class

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Arise Sunrise*; one play held in 2009-10; plans to establish a percussion ensemble; 14-member choir; mural arts; chess; ballroom dance; elective courses: Career and college preparation,

Sociology (Culture and society), Research Methods, Humanities I and II, Personal Training

**Boys' sports:** Basketball

**Girls' sports:** Basketball

### Boys' Latin of Philadelphia

**Charter School**  
5501 Cedar Ave., 19143  
Ph: 215-387-5149 Fax: 215-387-5159  
David P. Hardy, CEO  
Email: dhardy@boyslatin.org  
www.boyslatin.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 242

**Grades served:** 9-12

**Admissions requirements:** Parents must attend information session and fill out "notification of interest" form, school contacts family

**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 99%      Latino – <1%

Asian – 0%      White – <1%      Other – 0%

% English language learners: NR

% special education students: 12%

% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch: 79%

**New this year:** Restorative Justice program; athletics will include golf and tennis

**Recent improvements:** New kiln in the art studio; between the first and second report card periods last year, grade point averages for freshmen grew by 16%, sophomores by 12%, and juniors by 13%

**Points of pride:** First and only single gender charter school in Pennsylvania; "Best of Philly Schools" afterschool program; diverse sports program, including crew and fencing; student achieved perfect score on National Latin Exam; in-school SAT and college prep; high student attendance at Saturday School program

**AP courses:** Art History, English Literature

**Foreign languages:** Latin

**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *The Centurion Letter*; one play and musical held in 2009-10; four-member band; 12-member choir; mock trial; Outward Bound; Junior Classics League; clubs, including entrepreneurship, web design, film, mural arts, and debate; mandatory student declamatory courses: Career and college preparation,

(continued on page 32)

# JOIN THE ACTION!

## Help us meet our goal – 500 Notebook members in 2010!

Our members help make the *Public School Notebook* stronger both through their financial support and through their connection to the *Notebook* community. You can help us build a groundswell of informed and involved Philadelphians who are committed to improvement of our public schools.

### Your membership helps support:

- more reporters to cover the news you want to read
- feature writers covering special education to sports
- an increase from four to six print editions per year
- breaking stories, blogs, and discussion every day at [www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org)

It's a public education conversation that's not happening anywhere else.

We need your support to sustain and expand the unique services of the *Notebook*. Membership starts at only \$30 for individuals or \$60 for organizations. It can get you first class mail delivery of each edition, access to an online member directory, premium gifts, discounts to *Notebook* events, and more.

Most importantly, your support allows us to continue to provide independent reporting on the schools that you can only get here.

We know you value public education. Invest in our schools' future by investing in an educated public.

**Become a member today! Turn to page 36, clip the membership form, and send it in with as generous a contribution as you can. Or go to [www.thenotebook.org](http://www.thenotebook.org) and click on the link at the top of the page to become a member.**

Philadelphia Public School  
**thenotebook**

**CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS**  
(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 31)

tion, SAT and college application preparation; mandatory four years of Latin Language and Culture  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Bowling, Fencing\*, Crew\*

**Charter High School for Architecture and Design**

105 S. 7th Street, 19106  
Ph: 215-351-2900 Fax: 215-351-9458  
Peter Kountz, CEO  
Email: pkountz@chadmail.us  
www.chadphila.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 557  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, interview, lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 82% Latino – 6%  
Asian – 3% White – 10% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 9%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 48%  
**Points of pride:** High graduation rate; number of graduates who attend college/university; tutoring center; increase in reading levels  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** 12-member drum line; National Honor Society; pep squad; chess team; architecture club; fashion club; CHAD Builders; ACE Mentor Program  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer

**Community Academy of Philadelphia Charter School**

1100 E. Erie Ave. 19124  
Ph: 215-533-6700 Fax: 215-533-6722  
Joseph H. Proietta, Founder & CEO  
Email: jproietta@communityacademy.org  
www.communityacademy.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 1,209  
**Grades served:** K-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Applications accepted from Dec. 15-Mar. 31 for spring lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 17% Latino – 78%  
Asian – 2% White – 2% Other – 1%  
**% English language learners:** NA  
**% special education students:** 11%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 93%  
**Points of pride:** 30-plus years of service to Philadelphia; Middle States accredited schoolwide; experiential learning programs; 85%-plus attendance rate; emotional support team  
**AP courses:** English, Calculus, Biology, US History, Chemistry, Spanish  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish, Latin  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Daily podcast with school and local news; 25-member choir; plays, including *Fame*, held in 2009-10 school year; literary magazine; Poetry Café; honors classes  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Baseball, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer (spring), Softball, Volleyball

**Delaware Valley Charter High School**

5201 Old York Rd.  
Logan Plaza – Suite A, 19141  
Ph: 215-455-2550 Fax: 215-455-5701  
Ernest Holiday Jr., CEO  
Email: eholiday@dvchs.net  
www.dvchs.net

**2009-10 enrollment:** 700  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, interviews, lottery if oversubscribed  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 100% Latino – <1%  
Asian – 0% White – <1% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** NA  
**% special education students:** 11%

**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 74%  
**Recent improvements:** Implemented Professional Learning Communities and Individual Learning Plans for students; instituted a Mastery model  
**Points of pride:** Making AYP; safe learning environment; largest charter school athletic program; Philadelphia School District Football Title Division A; student-friendliness  
**AP courses:** English Literature; English Composition; Calculus; Statistics; History  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish; Mandarin  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper, *The Warrior*; one play held in 2009-10 (*Dream-girls*); 15-member band; choir; modeling; robotics; culinary; fashion design; drama club; yearbook; mock trial; SAT prep; Careers; Anatomy; Physics  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football, Soccer, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Lacrosse\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer (Fall), Softball, Swimming and Diving, Track & Field, Volleyball, Lacrosse\*, Cheerleading\*

**Eastern University Academy Charter School**

3 Falls Center, Suite 2  
3300 Henry Avenue, 19128  
Ph: 215-769-3131 Fax: 215-769-3112  
Omar Barlow, CEO and Principal  
Email: obarlow@eastern.edu  
www.euacademycs.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 117  
**Grades served:** 7-10  
**Admissions requirements:** Application submitted by March 31, lottery, admitted students must attend a two-week summer orientation  
**Student demographics:** NA (new in 2009)  
**New this year:** Addition of 136 new students, 7th and 9th graders  
**Recent improvements:** More opportunities for students to be exposed to Eastern University, take credit/non-credit courses, interact with professors, and receive mentors; working to develop more meaningful service learning and internship experiences; working with Need in Deed in the 2010-11 school year  
**Points of pride:** Students pursue passion/purpose/interests; students engage in service learning; students are at the center of the learning; students are supported by caring adults  
**Boys' sports:** NA  
**Girls' sports:** NA

**Esperanza Academy Charter High School**

301 W. Hunting Park Ave., 19140  
Ph: 215-457-3667 Fax: 215-457-4381  
David Rossi, CEO  
Email: drossi@neacademy.org  
www.neacademy.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 753  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, parent/student interview with school administrator  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 6% Latino – 94%  
Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 17%  
**% special education students:** 17%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 81%  
**New this year:** Launching an Engineering major and Health Science major; launching an expanded after-school program through a 21st Century Afterschool Activities Grant  
**Recent improvements:** Made AYP for 2010 school year; 11th grade math and reading proficiency levels are higher than the city average for 11th graders  
**Points of pride:** Excellent school climate; 92% college acceptance; low staff turnover rate; low dropout rate  
**AP courses:** English, Calculus, Spanish, Dual Enrollment Economics, Dual Enrollment Cross Boundaries  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Esperanza Post*; plays; six-member elite band; seven-member jazz band; 18-member string orchestra; 22-member choir; afterschool program including small-group tutoring in all subjects; Entrepreneur-



Victoria Adan of Esperanza Academy (left) was honored for excellence in news reporting at the notebook annual student journalism awards in June. Clear Channel's Loraine Ballard Morrill emceed.

ship Club; ESL Support; SAT Prep; academic majors, consisting of several courses per major, spread over grades 10-12; majors include Engineering, Teacher Education, Entrepreneurship, Technology, Journalism, Health Sciences, Liberal Arts, Instrumental Music, Voice, Film, Visual Arts, Dance and Theater; Honors Program featuring 18 courses in all major content areas; dual enrollment where students take college classes through Eastern University's Cross Boundaries Program and partnership with Esperanza College  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Football  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Softball, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** 2009 Individual Public League Champion and Individual 2nd Place PIAA State Champion in Cross Country; 2009 Public League AA Champs and 2010 Public League AA Champs in Baseball

**Franklin Towne Charter High School**

5301 Tacony St., 19137  
Ph: 215-289-5000 Fax: 215-535-8910  
Joseph M. Venditti, Esq., CEO  
Email: jvenditti@franklintowne.org  
www.franklintowne.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 938  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application (first deadline Dec. 15), lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
African American – 8% Latino – 10%  
Asian – 2% White – 80% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 17%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 70%  
**No response to survey questions**



**Graduate Education Programs**

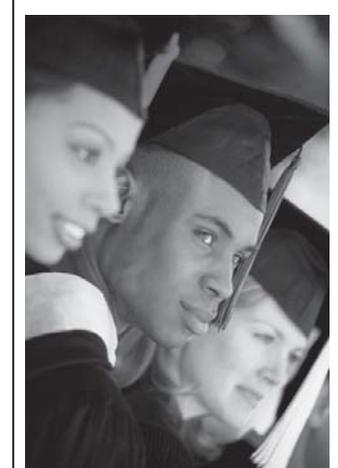
ON CAMPUS OR ONLINE

- Autism
- Educational Leadership
- Instructional Technology
- Special Education
- ...and more

**ARCADIA UNIVERSITY**

Metropolitan Philadelphia  
1-877-ARCADIA • [admiss@arcadia.edu](mailto:admiss@arcadia.edu)

Register for Graduate Open House Nov. 10  
[www.arcadia.edu/nov10](http://www.arcadia.edu/nov10)



A high school diploma doesn't signal the end of the journey. It is only the beginning of one.



Jerry T. Jordan, President  
[www.pft.org](http://www.pft.org)

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer, Track & Field, Wrestling  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Field Hockey, Soccer (spring), Softball, Track & Field

**Freire Charter School**  
 2027 Chestnut St., 19103  
 Ph: 215-557-8555 Fax: 215-557-9051  
 Kelly Davenport, CEO  
 Email: kelly@freirecharterschool.org  
 www.freirecharterschool.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 456  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 95% Latino - 2%  
 Asian - 0% White - 3% Other - 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 11%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 78%  
**New this year:** Math and writing centers; Science Center for extracurricular science support; homework help, tutoring, and science projects to be completed outside of class  
**Recent improvements:** Family Meetings take place before school starts; staff meets with incoming students and families to provide an introduction and establish expectations. Homework Club establishes good study habits and keeps students on-track  
**Points of pride:** 100% nonviolent school; exceeded PSSA targets in math/reading in '09 and '10; over 90% of graduates go to college; class of 2010 awarded nearly \$3 million in scholarships; attendance rate is 93%; teachers are learners, too  
**AP courses:** Literature, Calculus  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Student government coordinates college trips, a talent show, a fashion show, seasonal parties, and community outreach efforts; student council members attend board of directors meetings  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Robotics club; math center; writing center; intensive math and reading classes for incoming students; mandatory Homework Club for 9th graders and some 10th graders; year-long course in Peace and Social Change for all seniors, culminating in a presentation  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer (Spring), Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*  
**Titles/Championships won:** Girls' varsity basketball, D-12 AA City League Champions for 2008-09 & 2009-10; boys' varsity basketball, PIAA Single A State Champion and runner up for 2008-09; boys' varsity basketball, Greater Philadelphia League/Cheltenham HS Challenge runner up for 2008-09; boys' junior varsity basketball, Jim Blades Memorial Classic, champions for 2008-09 and runner up for 2009-10; boys' junior varsity basketball, Founders' Tip-Off Tournament, champions for 2008-09

**Hope Charter School**  
 2116 E. Haines St., 19138  
 Ph: 267-336-2730 Fax: 267-336-2740  
 Richard Chapman, Co-founder & CEO  
 Email: chaprich@hotmail.com  
 www.hopecschool.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 385  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application period ends Dec 31, lottery in early January, after that first-come, first-served if space  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 96% Latino - 1%  
 Asian - <1% White - 1% Other - 1%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 23%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 48%  
**New this year:** Grade level coaches will assist students and teachers to assure student academic and behavioral success; Panavision (Smart) boards have been installed in English and math classes; two mobile laptop carts; a computer resource position was added to assist teachers in integrating technology; track and girls' basketball; OST programs will offer project-based learning opportunities on various topics; quarter reviews with every student and parent to review progress, identify needed supports, and develop a future plan  
**Recent improvements:** Math and English support classes for low-performing students; GRADE and GMADE diagnostic testing to determine student strengths and needs; 4Sight tests to track student progress and assist teachers in targeting skills and objectives; increased number of special ed teachers who provide support in academic enrichment classes and co-teach with regular education teachers in core classes; Study Island incorporated into all English and math classes; a new intake procedure to identify student needs and supports  
**Points of pride:** Unique school mission; small school of 400 students; small class size of 18-20 students; dedicated teaching and support staff; various student services; on-site behavioral health  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newsletter: *Eye on HOPE*; 10-member choir; drama and dance end-of-semester productions; boxing; karate; weightlifting; mural arts program; modeling; Credit Recovery program, summer school and Twilight programs  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball  
**Girls' sports:** Cheerleading\*

**Imhotep Institute Charter High School**  
 6201 N. 21st St., 19138  
 Ph: 215-438-4140 Fax: 215-438-4160  
 M. Christine Wiggins, Founder & CEO  
 Email: cwiggins@imhotepcharterschool.org  
 www.imhotepcharterschool.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 525  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Students encouraged to visit to see if a "match," open enrollment from Nov.

2 to Feb. 26, lottery if applicants exceed spaces, notification at the end of March  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 100% Latino - <1%  
 Asian - 0% White - 0% Other - 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 18%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 87%  
**New this year:** STEM Academy offers special courses in science, technology, engineering, and math  
**Recent improvements:** Development of seven academies that increase student engagement by developing industry and community partners  
**Points of pride:** 100% post-secondary placement; Academies (STEM)/Tech Prep; Community Service (cancer, Haiti, Africa); 1st place in Dwight Evans' "Project Citizen;" sports program; performing arts  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Nursing; Culinary; Technology  
**AP courses:** English Literature, Physics, Statistics, US Government, Biology  
**Student Success Center:** 200 students served in 2009-10; provides services in socialization  
**Activities & special academic programs:** 30-member choir; mock trial; chess; Jaama; Say Yes; STEM Academy  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Football, Track & Field, Volleyball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field, Volleyball, Cheerleading\*

**Marianna Bracetti Academy**  
 2501 Kensington Ave., 19125  
 Ph: 215-291-4436 Fax: 215-291-4985  
 Angela Villani, CEO  
 Email: avillani@mbacs.org  
 www.mbacs.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 1,155  
**Grades served:** 6-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, spring lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 26% Latino - 72%  
 Asian - 1% White - 0% Other - 1%  
**% English language learners:** 19%  
**% special education students:** 14%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 97%  
**New this year:** Wrestling team; high school band program; afterschool offerings via 21st Century Learning Grant  
**Recent improvements:** Implemented a new discipline program that includes a demerit system and in-house suspensions; increase in overall student performance in math and reading  
**Points of pride:** Barrymore-nominated Drama Program; highly qualified staff (100% certified); competitive internship program for 12th graders; international/national travel opportunities; numerous community partnerships  
**AP courses:** Civics and Government  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Plays, two held in 2009-10 school year; 30-member band; yearbook; prom committee; Puerto Rican Day Parade; French, dance and ESL clubs; blood drive; DEFY; Talented Tenth; competitive internship pro-

gram for 12th graders  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Track & Field, Wrestling\*, Golf\*, Football\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball, Track & Field, Volleyball, Golf\*

**Maritime Academy Charter School**  
 2275 Bridge St., Building 107, 19137  
 Ph: 215-535-4555 Fax: 215-535-4398  
 Ann G. Waiters, CEO  
 Email: waiters@maritimecharter.org  
 www.maritimecharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 766  
**Grades served:** 5-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application in fall, including parent/student interview with review committee  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 53% Latino - 17%  
 Asian - 2% White - 28% Other - 0%  
**% English language learners:** NA  
**% special education students:** 14%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 85%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Indoor Track & Field, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Indoor Track & Field, Softball, Track & Field

**Mastery Charter School Lenfest Campus**  
 35 S. 4th St., 19106  
 Ph: 215-922-1902 Fax: 215-922-1903  
 Scott Gordon, CEO  
 Email: scott.gordon@masterycharter.org  
 www.masterycharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 427  
**Grades served:** 7-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, mandatory information session for parents and students  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American - 93% Latino - 3%  
 Asian - 1% White - 1% Other - 2%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 16%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 70%  
**Recent improvements:** To see all of the school's gains, visit [www.masterycharter.org](http://www.masterycharter.org)  
**Points of pride:** EPIC award-winning school (silver medal) twice; mentioned in President Obama's speech to the NULCC; named a top workplace in Philadelphia; 100% of 11th and 12th graders take the SAT; 85% of all 10th and 11th graders take the PSAT; over 125 colleges have accepted Mastery graduates  
**AP courses:** English Language, English Literature, Chemistry, US History, Psychology  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Lenfest Lookout*; plays; 20-member band; Hip Hop Club; fashion club; HeartSpeak; Teen Technology Club; Art Club; Lenfest Honor Society; Science Club; debate; student council; College Prep Class; SAT Prep Class; Microsoft Office Class;

(continued on page 34)



## EducationWorks

### Making a Difference Every Day

**Coach • Mentor • Support • Lead • Guide • Change**

Help us provide year-round educational programs during and after school to children, youth, and families throughout Philadelphia, Chester, Camden and Trenton.

We are seeking men and women ages 17 to 80+ for part-time after school and full-time AmeriCorps positions starting in September. Experience mentoring and tutoring middle and high school youth is a plus.

**Join us and receive:**

- Living allowance
- Valuable training
- Hands-on experience
- Student loan forbearance
- Health insurance and childcare if qualified
- Education award for college tuition and loans




Apply online at [www.EducationWorks-online.org](http://www.EducationWorks-online.org).

Questions? Please contact the Recruitment Department at 215-221-6900.

## Decisions, decisions.

### Debating which high school is right for you? Tough choices are made easier with good information.

*Arm yourself with quality research on school choice in Philadelphia and other education issues from Research for Action.*

▶ Visit our website to download one of our latest reports - *Transition to High School* or many others - to learn about the policies and practices that affect your important decisions.





**RESEARCH FOR ACTION**

[www.researchforaction.org](http://www.researchforaction.org)

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 33)

Middle School Seminar; Internship  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field, Softball

### Mastery Charter School Pickett Campus

5700 Wayne Ave., 19144  
 Ph: 215-866-9000 Fax: 215-866-9001  
 Scott Gordon, CEO  
 Email: scott.gordon@masterycharter.org  
 www.masterycharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 339  
**Grades served:** 7-11  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, mandatory information session for parents and students  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 99% Latino – 0%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** <1%  
**% special education students:** 23%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 86%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer, Distance Running\*  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Cross Country, Soccer (Spring), Softball, Distance Running\*

### Mastery Charter School Shoemaker Campus

5301 Media St., 19131  
 Ph: 267-296-7111 Fax: 267-296-7112  
 Scott Gordon, CEO  
 Email: scott.gordon@masterycharter.org  
 www.masterycharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 440  
**Grades served:** 7-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, mandatory information session for parents and students  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 99% Latino – 0%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 1%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 13%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 93%  
**New this year:** First graduating class in 2011; increasing AP curriculum from three to four classes with the inclusion of AP Literature for seniors; enhancing SAT prep instruction and broadening internship program for 10th and 11th graders; band  
**Recent improvements:** Continue to reevaluate and improve our practices, which means finding new and innovative teaching methods, utilizing technology and education "Best Practices," focusing on school culture, and driving home critical concepts of respect, responsibility, and pride  
**Points of pride:** Second year in a row of EPIC Gold Awards; beating the state average on PSSA for 7th and 8th grades; named by the President as a model



YouthBuild Philadelphia

**YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School is a one-year program with a strong community service component.**

charter school; reduced violence by 80% since the school's takeover; robust, college-focused curriculum; internships for 10th and 11th graders  
**AP courses:** Human Geography, US History, Language  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Puma Press*; plays, including two held in 2009-10; chess club; debate team; pep squad; yearbook club; student government; Social and Emotional Learning Program; Saturday School; Learning Institute to support our incoming 7th graders, starting in April  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Bowling, Lacrosse, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Bowling, Lacrosse, Soccer (spring)  
**Titles/Championships won:** Boys and Girls Cadence Cup Winners for Cycling

### Mastery Charter School Thomas Campus

927 Johnson St., 19148  
 Ph: 267-236-0036 Fax: 267-236-0030  
 Scott Gordon, CEO  
 Email: scott.gordon@masterycharter.org  
 www.masterycharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 453  
**Grades served:** 7-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, mandatory information session for parents and students  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 72% Latino – 3%  
 Asian – 12% White – 12% Other – 1%  
**% English language learners:** 1%  
**% special education students:** 16%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 76%  
**New this year:** Schoolwide culture calendar of fun activities, awards, and trips; a 4th AP course; regular assessments that mirror the PSSA testing environment; schoolwide teacher coaching program;

Mastery grants for teachers to develop summer enrichment camps for students; food service program; newly refinished auditorium  
**Recent improvements:** Mastery class designed to raise homework completion rates; same-day late detentions to deter tardiness; merit system to earn access to trips, prizes, and special events; added three AP classes  
**Points of pride:** 100% college acceptances, including two Ivy Leaguers; \$3 million in financial aid packages; EPIC Silver Award: Significant Gains Student Achievement; AYP four consecutive years; closing state achievement gap in MS Read/Math; President Obama selects Mastery as example of effective reform  
**AP courses:** Physics, Literature, Calculus, Language  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** Plays; 30-member band; yearbook; drill team; green club; Spanish club; National Honor Society; student government; cycling; Social Emotional Learning Classes; Internship classes and placements; College Readiness classes  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Track & Field, Cross Country  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Track & Field, Cross Country, Softball

### The Mathematics, Civics and Sciences Charter School

447 N. Broad St., 19123  
 Ph: 215-923-4880 Fax: 215-923-4859  
 Veronica Joyner, CEO  
 Email: info@mcsos.org  
 www.mcsos.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 882  
**Grades served:** 1-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery if applicants exceed spots available  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 98% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 0% White – <1% Other – <1%

**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 5%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 72%  
**New this year:** Increase in clerical, computer technology, accounting, and maintenance internships for students  
**Recent improvements:** Increased student tutoring classes during school hours; increased small groups of coaching classes during and after school to help improve student behavior; increased college prep classes for high school students; increased rewards program for improved grades and academics  
**Points of pride:** Passed PSSA for the past five years; students feed and clothe over 500 homeless weekly; sponsor lunch for Philadelphia police officers; a graduate received Bill Gates Millennium Award  
**Career & Technical Education programs:** Accounting; Law; Medical; Education; Computer Science  
**Foreign languages offered:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** 40-member choir  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball  
**Titles/Championships won:** Basketball Team - PIAA District 12 Class A Champions for the past two years

### Mathematics, Science and Technology (MaST) Community Charter School

1800 E. Byberry Rd., 19116  
 Ph: 267-348-1100 Fax: 267-348-1217  
 Richard Fitzgerald, CEO  
 Email: rfitgerald@mastcharter.org  
 www.mastcharter.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 1,228  
**Grades served:** K-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Applications through March, lottery in April  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 8% Latino – 5%  
 Asian – 9% White – 74% Other – 3%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 13%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 34%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer (spring), Softball

### Multi-Cultural Academy Charter School

3821-3833 N. Broad St., 19140  
 Ph: 215-227-0513 Fax: 215-227-0415  
 Vuong G. Thuy, CEO  
 Email: thuyv@macs.k12.pa.us  
 www.macs.k12.pa.us

**2009-10 enrollment:** 155  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Attend orientation session, application, rolling admissions  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 91% Latino – 3%  
 Asian – 6% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 11%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 86%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** NR  
**Girls' sports:** NR

### New Media Technology Charter School

8034 Thouron St., 19150  
 Ph: 267-286-6900 Fax: 267-286-6904  
 Margaret Kenney, CEO  
 www.newmediatech.net

**2009-10 enrollment:** 484  
**Grades served:** 5-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 100% Latino – 0%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 10%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 77%  
**No response to survey questions**

**You know the impact one teacher can make.**

Tell a friend about Philadelphia Teaching Fellows.

## PHILADELPHIA TEACHING FELLOWS

LOVE our city. TEACH our children.

Strong interest in working with children needed, education credits/coursework not a prerequisite.

Apply today at  
 www.philadelphia Teaching Fellows.org

Donate to

Philadelphia Public School

thenotebook

through



To become a supporter of the Notebook through United Way at your workplace, contact your Human Resources or Payroll Department to request a Donor Designated Funds Form for the United Way's Donor Choice Program.

Through the program, employees simply identify an amount they wish to donate with each pay period. That amount is then deducted from the paycheck. In addition to making it easier to support the Notebook, your contribution is tax-deductible.

Remember the Notebook's agency code number is:

**48140**

This number is required in order to fill out the donor choice form.

Thank you for your contribution, and for  
**Turning the Page for Change!**

## CHARTER HIGH SCHOOLS (CONTINUED)

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Soccer, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Indoor Track & Field, Track & Field

### The Philadelphia Academy Charter School

1700 Tomlinson Rd., 19116  
 Ph: 215-673-3990 Fax: 215-673-3341  
 Larry Sperling, CEO  
 Email: pacs2@hotmail.com  
 www.pacsweb.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 1,181  
**Grades served:** K-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 5% Latino – 4%  
 Asian – 2% White – 87% Other – 1%  
**% English language learners:** NA  
**% special education students:** 30%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 30%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer (spring), Softball

### Philadelphia Electrical & Technology Charter High School

1420-22 Chestnut St., 19102  
 Ph: 267-514-1823 Fax: 267-514-1834  
 Michael Nemitz, CEO  
 Email: nemitzm@pettech.org  
 www.pettech.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 625  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, interview, lottery if necessary  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 60% Latino – 6%  
 Asian – 2% White – 32% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 1%  
**% special education students:** 14%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 62%  
**New this year:** Incentive program to reward students for good attendance and punctuality; for the second year, school goal is to improve communication with parents  
**Recent improvements:** Received 21st Century Learning Community grant to offer a comprehensive afterschool and summer enrichment program with reading, math, technology, music, and physical education classes  
**Points of pride:** Full AYP status; best practices co-op program; best practices academic growth model; student service program  
**AP courses:** US History  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Student Success Center:** Over 400 students served; offers career and college counseling and assistance with dual enrollment applications  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School year-book: *The Union*; annual talent show held at World

Café Live; afterschool music program; student government; clubs; afterschool enrichment programs; career-oriented Intro to Technology course; Electrical Theory course; Telecommunications course

**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball

**Titles/Championships won:** Boys' baseball, 2010 PIAA Division XII champions

### The Preparatory Charter School of Math, Science, Technology, & Careers

1928 Point Breeze, 19145  
 Ph: 215-334-6144 Fax: 215-334-6147  
 John Badagliacco, CEO  
 Email: jbadagliacco@msn.com  
 www.theprepcharterschool.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 581  
**Grades served:** 9-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery if necessary  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 54% Latino – 2%  
 Asian – 16% White – 29% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 3%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 64%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Baseball, Basketball, Football, Soccer  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Softball

### Sankofa Freedom Academy

4256 Paul St., 19124  
 Ph: 215-288-2001 Fax: 215-288-2099  
 Ayesha Imani, CEO & Founder  
 Email: ayesha.imani1@aol.com  
 www.sfacs.us

**2009-10 enrollment:** 300  
**Grades served:** K-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery, preference given to students from schools identified by the District as overcrowded  
**Student demographics:** NA (new in 2009)  
**New this year:** Debate; mock trial; Ujima Trainers (10th grade numeracy coaches working with 5th grade elementary scholars; fashion design; recyclable art; establishment of Umbutu Lab program to recondition and give away computers to members of our community  
**Recent improvements:** Freshman class gave the school a 97% satisfaction rating and parents gave a 93% satisfaction rating; school culture reflects commitment to resolve problems nonviolently and testify to the fact that we really are family; 100% participation in sports programs; 100% job placement in the summer; 98% promotion rate  
**Points of pride:** First public freedom school in US; Servant Leadership Program; winners of Carver Science Fair; Winners-Kids Grow Expo; raised \$5,000 for Haiti relief effort  
**Foreign languages:** Spanish  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Sankofa Bird*; plays, including August Wilson's *The Piano Lesson*; theater; dance; art;

student council; student representatives on Board of Trustees; high school literacy coaches; Servant Leadership; Rites of Passage; PSAT prep; extended school year with academic component for earning credits; Saturday tutorials; Technommo (using technology to empower our community)

**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Baseball, Soccer\*, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Soccer\*, Track & Field, Cheerleading\*

### Tacony Academy Charter School

1330 Rhawn Street, 19111  
 Ph: 215-742-5100 Fax: 215-742-5200  
 Stacey L. Cruise, Executive Director  
 Email: scruiasc@firstphiladelphiacharter.org  
 www.taconyacademy.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 375  
**Grades served:** K-5 and 9th grades  
**Admissions requirements:** Application (deadline in mid-Jan.), lottery, preference given to students in Northeast and Lincoln H.S. attendance zones, recommendation and independent research presentation  
**Student demographics:** NA (new in 2009)  
**New this year:** Will expand to include the 5th grade and high school program will start with 100 9th graders; 9th graders are traveling to Paris and London for 10 days; 5th graders are attending College Settlement Camp for three days; instrumental music program with strings and band instruction; expansion of afterschool activities to include tennis, golf, other sports, chess, tap lessons, and academic clubs  
**Recent improvements:** Implementing the practices of a caring school community to create a peaceful and safe school climate, allowing for meaningful teaching and consistent student achievement  
**Points of pride:** A caring school community of learners; National Promising Practice Award Winner; annual schoolwide invention convention; funded a house construction in Haiti; educators from other states study our best practices; will be a No Excuses University school in 2010  
**Foreign languages:** Chinese  
**Activities & special academic programs:** School newspaper: *Tacony Times*; 4-H Club

### Truebright Science Academy Charter School

926 W. Sedgley Ave., 19132  
 Ph: 215-225-3437 Fax: 215-689-2500  
 Riza Ulker, Principal  
 Email: riza.ulker@truebright.org  
 www.truebright.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 293  
**Grades served:** 7-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, lottery  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 89% Latino – 4%  
 Asian – 1% White – 1% Other – 5%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 24%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 75%  
**No response to survey questions**

### World Communications Charter School

512 S. Broad St., 19146  
 Ph: 215-735-3198 Fax: 215-735-3824  
 Carol D. Rhodes, Principal  
 Email: crhodess@worldcomcs.com  
 www.worldcomcs.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 500  
**Grades served:** 6-12  
**Admissions requirements:** Applications, interview for parent and student, lottery if necessary  
**Student racial demographics:**

African American – 94% Latino – 5%  
 Asian – 0% White – 0% Other – 1%  
**% English language learners:** NA  
**% special education students:** 3%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 78%  
**No response to survey questions**  
**Boys' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field  
**Girls' sports:** Basketball, Cross Country, Track & Field

### YouthBuild Philadelphia Charter School

1231 N. Broad St., 3rd floor, 19122  
 Ph: 215-627-8671 Fax: 215-763-5774  
 Simran Sidhu, CEO  
 Email: ssidhu@youthbuildphilly.org  
 www.youthbuildphilly.org

**2009-10 enrollment:** 245  
**Grades served:** 12th grade  
**Admissions requirements:** Application, interview, two-week selection process called "mental toughness training." Applicants are screened for punctuality and motivation. This is a one-year program for returning dropouts.  
**Student racial demographics:**  
 African American – 89% Latino – 8%  
 Asian – 0% White – 3% Other – 0%  
**% English language learners:** 0%  
**% special education students:** 3%  
**% eligible for free or reduced-priced lunch:** 100%  
**No response to survey questions**



**DVHS-Kelly**  
 4333 Kelly Drive  
 Philadelphia, PA 19129

**DVHS-Bucks/Montco**  
 299 Jacksonville Road  
 Warminster, PA 18974

**DVHS-South West**  
 6404 Elmwood Ave.  
 Philadelphia, PA 19142

Two Logan Square – 19th Floor  
 Philadelphia, PA 19103  
**T: 215-677-6107**  
 www.dvhs.org

Board members proudly serving the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, fifteen Local School Districts, including the Philadelphia School District  
 Board members striving to effectuate positive change to improve statewide standards for alternative education in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
 David T. Shulick, Esquire, President  
 Mattie Thompson, CEO/CAO

Licensed by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

**Alliances:**  
 Judith B. Shulick Memorial Foundation  
 www.jbshulick.org  
 Philadelphia Youth Network – www.pyninc.org  
 Additional Local Community Alliances to Support Student Success

Philadelphia Public School

# thenotebook

WWW.THENOTEBOOK.ORG

Check out our site for daily updates

**Features include:**  
 -breaking news  
 -interactive content  
 -blog posts from parents, teachers, activists, and journalists  
 -comments on articles and blogs  
 -archives of all Notebook stories since 2002

Your online spot to learn and talk about Philly schools

## YOUR AD COULD BE HERE

More than 60,000 copies are distributed six times a year.

Call the *Notebook* for ad rates:  
 215-951-0330, ext. 2160 or email ads@thenotebook.org

# Activities help shape life in high school

**Extracurriculars loom large for many students when they choose their schools.**

by Brad Gibson

When Brittney White, a senior at Kensington High School for Creative and Performing Arts (Kensington CAPA), was deciding which high school to attend, she didn't consider academic programs, college-going rates, extracurricular activities, or any of the other factors many students weigh when making their choice.

She chose Kensington CAPA because her sister had attended the school.

But within her first two years there, she realized that something she had overlooked in her search had become a critical part of her high school experience.

"Honestly, it was the extracurricular stuff that made me want to stay at my high school.

If my school couldn't offer anything for me to do besides just sitting in class all day, I think I would want to transfer," White said.

White took up singing, began to dance on the Step Team, participated in drumline, and became active in the school's Youth United for Change (YUC) chapter. She also explored the film club, student government, and drama.

For some students, access to extracurricular activities is the draw to one school over another. For some like White, it's what ultimately motivates them to stay in school and ends up defining their high school experience.

Some high schools have built reputations for certain activities – for instance, Imhotep Institute Charter High School for strong sports teams, especially boys' basketball, or Kensington CAPA for performing arts.

Other schools such as Masterman, with over 30 clubs and service organizations, have exceptional programs across the board.

Then there are high schools that fail to offer programs with any real substance, leaving students hungry for more than what's offered inside the classroom.

High school guides at best provide limited detail inside specific programs, and sometimes not everything on paper is real. Students and families who haven't done their research in advance of applying can meet disappointment when the school year begins.

The District's *Imagine 2014* strategic plan commits the District to making sure that "all students have access to comprehensive enrichment, including arts, music, and athletic programs during the day, after school, during the summer, and on Saturdays."

**Some schools have built reputations for certain activities. Others have exceptional programs across the board.**



Courtesy of Imhotep  
**Imhotep Institute Charter High School is known for its outstanding basketball team. Here Imhotep (in white) takes on Preparatory Charter High School.**

During a community briefing in July, Superintendent Arlene Ackerman and Mayor Nutter presented an update on the plan, promising to offer a visual and performing arts program at every comprehensive high school.

The District has opened a Regional Talent Center for dance, arts, and music at Martin Luther King High School in March and plans to open another at Audenried in the fall.

Justin Carter, a 2010 West Philadelphia High School graduate, attests to the importance of extracurriculars. Carter started high school at Communications Tech but dropped out within two weeks because he felt the school offered him little.

"Not having the right extracurricular programs really weighs on students because they don't have the ability to express themselves ... to channel their energy into something that they enjoy and have an affinity for," Carter said. "These programs can help you focus your energy so when you walk into a classroom, you're not so restless," he said.

Carter was home-schooled for two years before enrolling at West. He recalled that when he arrived, some of its programs seemed in disarray.

"The music program was in bad shape. Our music teacher retired, and they still hadn't signed up a new one, and there were very few instruments, most of which were old and out of tune," he said.

Carter said some other programs were outstanding, however. The school had just invested in new video equipment and also had a group of students active with the Urban Nutrition Initiative, an educational program that allows members to work on nutrition-related issues in the community alongside university students studying public health.

Carter found an outlet for his talents as a member of the school's celebrated Hybrid X Team. The team's car recently placed ahead of over 90 other submissions from university engineering programs and auto industry professionals in a \$10 million contest to develop a 100-mile-per-gallon automobile.

Along with his experience with Hybrid X, which he credits as his reason for staying at West, Carter also played football and ran track his junior year and participated in the school's chapter of the Philadelphia Student Union (PSU). He said the support of his peers and mentors at PSU was the biggest key to his academic success.

"When my grandfather passed away, I was pretty upset and had trouble concentrating on school. PSU really helped me calm down and deal with how I felt so I could focus on my work and get my grades back to where they needed to be," he said.

In Carter's case, his activities helped improve his academics because his PSU peers would hold him accountable and

provide emotional support. But striking a balance between academics and extracurriculars is not always easy.

White said even though afterschool activities kept her engaged, they also took so much time and energy that her grades began to suffer. Only when she became involved with YUC as a junior did she feel pressure to perform academically as part of her commitment to her extracurricular activities, renewing her focus on her schoolwork.

Andre Noble, dean of students at Imhotep and head coach of the school's state champion boys' basketball team, said, "Young people ... sometimes need a commitment to an extracurricular activity to motivate them to take their academics more seriously. When used properly, these programs can help them bring their dreams into focus and understand how their goals in life are connected to their academic performance."

This has been the case for David Appolon, a senior at Imhotep and the captain of the basketball team. Though a number of schools offered strong basketball programs, Appolon felt Imhotep provided him equally strong opportunities as a student and as an athlete.

Still, it was Noble who helped him bring the two together.

"Basketball makes me keep my grades up. It's especially true here since Andre isn't just the coach, he's also the dean of students, so he always knows if we're slacking off," Appolon said.

At Imhotep, all players are required to go on college visits, many of which end up being schools they attend on athletic scholarships.

"I was always concerned about basketball, but now I also have to be concerned about academics if I want to keep playing. If I don't stay on top of my work, I won't be able to play. It's that simple," he said.

Brad Gibson, a student at Haverford College, was a summer intern at the Notebook.

## Become a member!

**We depend on your financial support!**

**Basic membership benefits include: subscription to the Notebook by first-class mail and to the Newsflash, unlimited online access, discounts, and much more!**

**Yes, I'd like to become a member of the Notebook for 2010!**

Please select the membership level you would like:

Basic – \$30    Associate/Organization – \$60    Sustaining – \$15/mo

I would like to make a tax-deductible contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I am a parent or student and would like a subscription only – \$15

Check Enclosed    Credit Card Payment

Card Number \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date (mo/yr) \_\_\_\_\_

Credit card payee will appear on your statement as "Resources for Human Development."

Card Type (Check One):    Discover    Mastercard    Visa

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

I want to be included in the membership directory. (Check all that you would like to include.)

Name    Phone Number    E-mail    Organization

Mail to Public School Notebook, 3721 Midvale Avenue, Phila., PA 19129  
To apply online or for more information about becoming a member, visit

**WWW.THENOTEBOOK.ORG/JOIN-US**

Philadelphia Public School Notebook is a division of Resources for Human Development, Inc., a registered charitable organization. A copy of our official registration and financial information may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

**WEB EXTRA**  
Three student activists talk about how organizing shaped their high school experience.

[www.thenotebook.org/campaign](http://www.thenotebook.org/campaign)