

September 17, 2021



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Dear Parents and Guardians:

This year marks the nineteenth year of City Charter High School's operation as a public school of choice in Pittsburgh, and we are thrilled to have all of our students back in the building. As your Principal and CEO, I want to thank you for your flexibility, patience, and partnership. I pledge to continue working diligently with you, our students, and our staff to assure that the City High tradition of excellence lives on, where fostering a positive, rigorous, and supportive learning environment for each of our students is our overarching priority even amidst challenges caused by the lingering pandemic.

We want to express our deepest gratitude to all of you and our students for persevering through an unprecedented 2020-2021 school year. Even though it was a challenging time, last year's accomplishments were notable, including:

- According to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, City High's most recent graduation rate is 90.8%, compared to 87.5% for the state. We are particularly proud that there are little to no disparities in graduation rates among racial and other demographic groups.
- 74% of our graduates were accepted into a 2-year or 4-year college, university or training program.
- City High continues to have one of the highest Pittsburgh Promise eligibility rates of all Pittsburgh high schools: 89% qualify for the Pittsburgh Promise scholarship.
- According to our 2021 Annual Report, City High students are consistently and substantially more likely than the national average to report experiencing equitable treatment.

We also want to inform you that City Charter High School receives Title I funding from the federal government. This funding is used to provide the following:

- Teachers that provide focused support for reading, writing, and mathematics;
- Paraprofessional assistance for students in reading, writing, mathematics, and technology;
- After school tutoring for ninth, tenth, and eleventh grade students;
- Support for parent workshops;
- Transportation to academic field experiences for students; and
- Staff development sessions and professional learning opportunities that enable teachers to further develop their knowledge as learners and strengthen their practice as effective teachers.

As a Title I school with a School-Wide Program, we are informing all parents that all of our students are eligible for Title I services. Additionally, City High annually reviews and approves its School-Wide Parental Involvement Policy, School-Wide Plan, and Professional Development Plan. These are jointly developed by parents, teachers, and administration.

There will be an in-person school-wide parental involvement meeting on Monday, October 25th at 2:00pm if you are interested in learning more about the Title I services we provide and would like to have input into the policies and plans listed above. **If you are able to attend, please email our Reading Specialist, Cristine Watson-Smith, at watson-smith@cityhigh.org to RSVP.** In the meantime, please contact me at 412-690-2489, x101, or via email at dwallen@cityhigh.org if you have any relevant feedback, questions, or concerns that you want to share.

Take care and please continue to stay safe.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Dara".

Dara Ware Allen, Ph.D.
CEO and Principal

High School at *Life-speed*

