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Cleveland Opens Five New Schools For 2006 - 2007

By Stacy Andell

A New Look for Cleveland Schools

Three Cleveland schools received complete and comprehensive renovations. These schools will appear completely different to returning students and take learning in Cleveland to a new and modern level. These schools include Mary B. Martin at 8200 Brookline Avenue, Mary Bethune at 11815 Moulton Avenue, and John Hay at 2075 Stoke Boulevard. All of these schools will host Open Houses for parents and students to get to know the new facilities.

In addition to these renovations, two brand new buildings were also completed for the 2006 - 2007 school year. These schools represent the latest in educational design and the pride of the Cleveland school system. Hopefully, these schools will become centers of learning in the Cleveland community and open more educational opportunities for students. The new schools are John Adam High School at 3817 Martin Luther King Jr. Drive and Hannah Gibbons - Nottingham at 1401 Larchmont Road. These new schools will also hold Open Houses for new parents and students to come and check out what has been going on in new construction and how to prepare themselves to learn at these new schools.

District Wide Improvement Strategies

In addition to these new renovations and locations, Cleveland schools are calling on parents in all schools to get together and discuss how to make getting to school in Cleveland a safe and enjoyable experience. The "Respect Cleveland: A Matter of Choice. A Leadership Summit for Safe and Respectful Schools" will help address concerns that parents and administrators have for making Cleveland schools more productive and less likely to encounter problems in the new school year. The focus of the summit will be identifying and implementing 4 or 5 clear goals to improve safety and security at Cleveland schools.

Speaking about the summit, Dr. Sanders states: "We intend to do all that we can before the start of school to ensure safety, security and respect to all of our students and staff and we want every concerned resident, including our young people, to have the opportunity to bring their suggestions and recommendations to this process." Sanders hopes that the summit will be one of many meetings throughout the school year and beyond to improve student safety and security and make Cleveland

schools more inviting environments for students and parents. Long term recommendations, as well as stages that need to be met for the Cleveland school safety programs, are welcome from the community in general as well as the parents and students at Cleveland schools.

Under the umbrella of Cleveland school safety improvement, the district will also implement several other programs to keep students safe at all Cleveland schools. The Cleveland Police Department, the Cuyahoga County Sheriff's Department, the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority Police, RTA Police, Cuyahoga Community College Police and University Circle Police will all assist in monitoring students getting on and off of school buses. A hotline, 771-SAFE, will be manned 24 hours each day by CMSD's Division of Safety & Security in order to take tips and problems about student safety.

All of these safety programs are designed with the goal of keeping Cleveland schools connected to the resources of the Cleveland community to keep students safe. "This collaboration and the coordination

of our patrols in the early morning and the afternoon allows us to have many more eyes watching out for our children on their way to and from school," said Dr. Sanders. "This has provided an extra measure of safety for our children and we are pleased to continue these partnerships and will seek additional law enforcement agencies to join us."

Stacy Andell is a staff writer for Schools K–12, providing free, in–depth reports on all U.S. public and private K–12 schools. For more information on Cleveland schools visit

<http://www.schoolsk-12.com/Ohio/Cleveland/index.html>

Three Houston Schools In Trouble... Public Upset Over Possible Closings

By Patricia Hawke

Three Houston schools have been persistently rated as unsatisfactory by state guidelines for three or more years. As with most school closing warnings across the nation, the parents, community, and elected officials with a political stake in the area are up in arms over the possibility.

Though parents want their children to attend schools within their own neighborhood, I believe the community must look at the cost of keeping these three schools open — the students are failing, unable to meet the bare minimum requirements of the state! With their futures at risk, I would think that parents would want their children at better performing schools.

The Houston schools' ratings are based on statewide student achievement tests and the overall dropout and graduation rates of each school. If a proposed policy by the Texas Education Agency is adopted, then the state education commissioner will be able to close in the near future any school that is rated unsatisfactory for four consecutive years. Thus, Houston schools Superintendent Dr. Abelardo Saavedra is only preparing the public, in case the schools do not gain a satisfactory rating at the end of the 2006–2007 school year.

Cleveland Opens Five New Schools For 2006 – 2007

In 2005, Saavedra warned that Kashmere High School, Sam Houston High School, and McReynolds Middle School needed to improve their ratings or drastic measures would be taken. Privatization of the schools was mentioned then; however, the Houston schools currently are preparing for closing the schools, if they again are rated unsatisfactory.

During the last school year, the Houston schools changed administrators at several chronically unsatisfactory schools and a large percentage of the teaching staff at each school. Though tremendous improvement was seen at Kashmere, Sam Houston, and McReynolds, there was not enough progress made and they were again rated as unsatisfactory.

For the 2006–2007 school year, the Houston schools have developed a year–long campaign in hopes of saving the three schools. School hours will be extended in order to provide more instruction time to the students, top–rated teachers have been hired to co–teach in problem classes, and an educational achievement plan will be created for each student. All three schools for this year will be under the supervision of Dr. Karen Soehnge, the Houston schools' chief academic officer.

The Houston schools have looked at several strategies to save these schools. The ones they have implemented up–to–now have failed. If this current campaign fails as well, then the schools will be closed. It is a "improve immediately" or "close the doors" situation for the schools, the students, and the educators.

All students deserve a quality education, and it is obvious that schools, which continue to be rated unsatisfactory, are not providing such. The Houston schools must do better for these children.

Patricia Hawke is a staff writer for Schools K–12, providing free, in–depth reports on all U.S. public and private K–12 schools. Patricia has a nose for research and writes stimulating news and views on school issues. For more information on Houston schools visit

<http://www.schoolsk–12.com/Texas/Houston/index.html>



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