

Open House Sunday, October 21, 2001

Mark your calendar for Sunday, October 21, 2001, between the hours of 1:00 and 3:00 p.m. This is the "official" Open House of the Construction Careers Center High School. Our "open house" officially began at 7:30 a.m. on October 1, 2001! We held our first classes in the renovated facility on Monday morning. The staff and students alike were happy to be in one place, together, all day. Our first few weeks were challenging to us all but we can use those experiences to forge ahead in a positive vein. There are still some finishing touches to be added to the first floor, the only floor to be occupied this school year, but the environment is wonderful! Our students seem to appreciate their new school "home." You are welcome to come inside and look around. Your encouragement shared with our students will help us keep the facility looking as great as it does now. We are working very hard to instill an appreciation for the hard work and large financial investment of the contractors and trades people.



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Message from the Administrator

As we approach mid-term of the first quarter, I wish to share a few thoughts that solicit your help in making our students successful. As parents and guardians you play a vital role in the success of the student you have entrusted to us. By word and deed, ensure that the home environment encourages and enhances the young person's education. Remind your student that reading is a vital skill and a key to school success. Encourage our student to read a variety of literature from the daily newspaper, magazines articles that are of interest, as well as a good book. Ask them to tell you about the subject of their reading. Parents/guardians, introduce your student to different ideas, cultures, and ways of looking at things. Watch television with and listen to your child's music with them. You are in a position to reinforce learning as well as correct attitudes. Perhaps ask our student to explain the architecture of buildings you see on a family outing. Your interest may challenge their recall of information from their Construction class. Ask them about and maybe even visit as a family some of the historically significant areas in St. Louis. Challenge your child to think critically, to question and to seek answers. Help them to answer their questions and use discussion as a catalyst to learning. Our young students sometimes over-schedule themselves; encourage them to think, plan, rest, reflect, and relax.

These suggestions are meant to be nurturing and learning oriented. As we work together capitalizing on the best of the school and home environments, we can better prepare the young person to face the many challenges that are ahead.

Thank You

It would be impossible to recognize everyone who has had such a vital part in bringing the Construction Careers Center Charter High School to fruition. Thanks to the AGC Board of Directors who had the vision for a school to prepare young high school students for the construction industry. To Terry Eivins and Lori Sommer for endless hours of investigative research and writing in putting together the Charter and seeing it through a myriad of hurdles resulting in the St. Louis Public Schools sponsoring their first charter school, thank you. To all those involved in renovating a 1939 facility, wow, what an accomplishment - eleven months ahead of schedule! To all the AGC contractors who believed in the proposal and put the financial commitments in place, thanks so much. To the charter school Board members, and especially Rick Grebel, Board president and key impetus to putting the project in motion, thanks for giving us the opportunity to put your dream in place.

Construction Careers Center Staff

Message from Veronica Gina Washington, Social Studies Instructor

"Why do you want to teach at Construction Career Center Charter High School?"

"Knowledge is power and education is the key to the future! Students must be given an opportunity to succeed in today's society; the only way to do this is to offer them a variety of career choices. Construction Career Center Charter High School offers students a variety of career opportunities in the construction industry and/or post secondary educational opportunities." As the social studies instructor, I am excited and eager to be on board. I feel fortunate to be one of the first instructors at this brand new charter high school!

Students Speak

Ms. House, Applied Communications instructor, asked her students to share their impression of their new school. What follows is but a sampling of their comments.

“I think this school is getting me ready for the real world. I really like this school and what it teaches. This school is what I thought it would be and more. This school is doing something that no other school in the United States is doing. I like the money that we will be making when we get out of school.... I have started to work hard to make good grades and to keep them.... I like to know that I am going to be somebody after I leave Construction Careers Center Charter High School. I think that it is nice to know we are the first students to be in this school and that we will be the first class to graduate from here.” — Jermaine Hayes

“I think school is going to turn into a big success. They are teaching me a lot. The building is coming out great, the classrooms are not like regular classrooms, we have tables and chairs instead of desks and the teacher’s desk is moveable. The school has a lot to offer. When my four years are up I’m going to open my own designing company.” — Shari Oden

“...What I like most about the school is that it gets you ready for construction work and you will make more money than most of the people...” — Sequella Williams

How to contact us:

The address of our new facility is 1224 Grattan, St. Louis, Missouri 63104. Our telephone number is (314) 588-9991. If the automated attendant responds to your call, a directory of extensions is available enabling you to leave a message for a particular staff member. Your contact is important to us and we will respond to you as quickly as possible.

“I am very impressed with the teachers that teach here. I like the teachers because they try their best to help you. I am also impressed on how they turned a building of nothing to a whole lot of something.” — Reggie Rogers

“My impression of the Construction Careers Center Charter High School is good because it has good teachers that care if you pass or fail. They go that extra step and see that you do your best. The rooms are great, they are clean and new. The walls and floors do not have marks on them. All the rooms have air and heat. I do not like the lockers, they are too small.... The uniforms are okay, they do not bother me at all.” — Joe Benne

My charter high school looks great. Everything in our school is brand new... The school caught my interest very quickly. When I went to the orientation, the teachers were very nice. When they told me about the school I was excited. That was one of the reasons I wanted to go to this school. But one of the biggest reasons was what they told me where I was going to go when I graduate from this charter school. They said I will be going to a trade school. When they told me that I was even more excited. Our school went to the training school...where the carpenters were training and they were making \$13.18 an hour and when they graduate after training for four years they will be making \$28.00 an hour. That is how much money I am going to be making because I am going to the same school and train. One day I will have my own business in construction but that is going to take years and a lot of hard work.” —Dwight Shelton

“I think that this school is a big opportunity for me for this school has been just what I thought it would be. In the long run having the things I learned on my background will help me get into the construction industry faster and easier.” — Greg Snyder

“What impressed me was that they turned an old school back into a new school. When I read about the school it impressed me to come to the school because when you graduate you come out with good jobs. The main reason to come to this school is because I want to graduate and become something in my life.” — Tim Perkins

“The school offers the students a chance to be able to get a good job in life. Even though the school’s uniform policy is pretty harsh, it’s made up for by the school’s classes. The classes for the school are limited but they still offer a lot to the students. After high school the students will have the opportunity to either go to college or to enter an apprenticeship program that will help them to master a trade in construction... The school is doing all their efforts to be sure and separate all of the serious students from the students that just don’t care.” — Corey Hill

“My...impression is that it is a good school in lots of ways. The reason I say that is because I feel safer and more respected at this school. What I mean by that is the teachers help you understand the work better and treat all students the same. The other way that I think makes this school better is that I’m learning about construction now and we are also learning our basic stuff like math.

“My impression of Construction Careers Center Charter High School is that they did a good job on the school. And so far some of the teachers are okay. I think that this school is going to be all right. Some of the work is not hard. This is a great school for having a good career.”— Jayson Miller

“I really didn’t want to go to this school. Now that I’ve been here for a while, it’s starting to be fun/better.” — Jason Hopkins

“What impresses me most is that we’re in the new building and we switch classes like 9th graders. The things that don’t impress me is the uniform, we should be able to wear regular clothes. The last thing that impresses me is they are getting us ready for the real world.”— Charles Bearden

“The impression I have gotten so far from the first time I stepped into the building, I knew it was going to be a good year. I think the detail in the building is great such as the new windows, the lockers, the doors, and the great work they did on the lighting. The teachers are very interested in teaching the children at the charter high school everything they can about construction and learning.” — Lindsey Wirth

“What I really like about this school is some of the teachers. Some of the teachers are cool... I’m not going to say any names, but one of their favorite colors is lime green.” — Crystal Montgomery

“...after we finish high school...we can start working at a good job...” — Timothy Evans