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Officials Celebrate Opening of New Camden High Campus with Ribbon-Cutting Ceremony

Camden, NJ – Local officials will celebrate the official opening of the Camden High Campus, opening this fall to students in grades 9 through 12, with a ribbon-cutting ceremony on Tuesday, August 31.

“We’re grateful to be here today celebrating the opening of the new Camden High Campus,” said Camden City School District Superintendent, Katrina T. McCombs. “The new high school reflects one of our district’s top priorities: ‘Safe Schools, Built for 21st Century Success.’ This marks a significant step in the fulfillment of our promise to the students and families of Camden, and most importantly our commitment to provide our students with the safe modern learning environment that they deserve.”

The new Camden High Campus is a 270,000 square-foot school designed to educate approximately 1,200 students in grades 9 through 12. The District public high school will be home to four small learning communities - Brimm Medical Arts Academy, Creative Arts Academy, Big Picture Learning Academy, and Camden High Academy. Each school has its own separate entrance, designated color, and learning resource center used for gatherings.

“This is a special day for me and my family. Some of the best days of my life were spent in the Castle on the Hill and this new campus is a fitting tribute to the former building, the city of Camden, and every student that walked those halls since it was established in 1891,” Mayor Vic Carstarphen said. “Furthermore, I cannot wait to see the faces of students when they walk into this brand new building that provides a modern, clean, safe environment for our kids to thrive in. This \$133 million high school is the centerpiece of our community and could not be prouder today to welcome our neighbors inside.”

“Schools are often the hub of a community, and the residents can be proud of the new Camden High School,” said Dr. Angelica Allen-McMillan, Acting Commissioner of Education. “This



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project is designed to provide generations of Camden students with a facility needed for a 21st Century education, and it will be a centerpiece of the community for years to come.”

“Today is a great day for Camden City students, teachers, and parents. Every child needs and deserves a safe place to learn with all of the necessary resources, tools, and technology available to them. The new Camden High is opening the door to a future of possibilities for our students – whether they want to go to college or learn a trade,” said Congressman Donald Norcross.

The \$133 million dollar campus will share the following spaces within Camden High Campus:

- o Auditorium
- o Cafeteria divided into four areas
- o Gymnasium
- o Auxiliary Gymnasium
- o Weight Room
- o An Occupational/Physical Therapy Room
- o PE/Team Locker Room
- o JAG Classroom
- o ROTC Classroom
- o Daily Living Skills Classroom
- o Daily Living Skills Lab

Creative Arts Academy

- o 8 Classrooms
- o 3 self-contained Special Ed classrooms
- o 2 science labs
- o Art room
- o Digital Graphics Lab
- o Textiles Studio
- o Dance studio
- o Black Box Theater
- o Vocal/General Music room
- o Instrumental Music Room
- o 4 Practice Rooms (1 String / 3 Music)
- o A Recording Booth
- o Library/Learning Resource Center
- o 2 Student Activity Rooms (Yearbook, Newspaper)
- o 1 Small Group Room

Medical Arts Academy

- o 11 Classrooms



- o 3 Self-Contained special Education classrooms
- o Forensic Science lab
- o Medical Arts lab
- o 3 Science Labs
- o Art room
- o Autistic Sensory Room
- o Student Activity Room
- o Learning Resource Center/Math Lab

Big Picture Learning Academy

- o 14 Classrooms
- o 5 Self-contained Special Education classrooms
- o 2 Science Labs
- o Maker Space Project Lab
- o Entrepreneurial Lab
- o Art Room
- o Small Group Room
- o Student Activity Room
- o Student Lounge
- o 1 Learning Resource Center/Cardio-Fitness Center

Camden High Academy

- o 8 Classrooms
- o 3 Self-contained Special Education classrooms
- o TV/Broadcasting Studio
- o CISCO Lab
- o A Construction Technology Lab and 2 Construction Technology Classrooms
- o Cosmetology Lab
- o An Engineering/Robotics Lab
- o 2 Science Labs
- o Art room
- o 2 Student Activity Rooms
- o Library/Learning Resource Center

“The Schools Development Authority (SDA) shares in the excitement for the opening of this state-of-the-art educational facility that will be transformative for generations of Camden students,” said SDA CEO Manuel Da Silva. “The design and construction of this school recognizes the rich history of the former facility while providing innovative and inviting educational spaces that will encourage students to dream big and strive for success. The new Camden High School is a testament to the positive outcomes that are achieved through the

productive partnerships that SDA shares with State, local, and school district officials in Camden and our contracting partners.”

In recognition of the community's connection with the former Camden High School facility, the new Camden High Campus includes items preserved from the previous building.

This includes:

- Salvaged terracotta architectural artifacts
- Key sections of the original basketball court
- Original archway and stairs on Park Blvd.
- Original dated cornerstone and time capsule, all of which are presented throughout the building.

Following the ceremony, attendees and the media are invited to tour the new campus facilities and enjoy refreshments.

Tours of the school will be available to the public in September.



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