



**For Immediate Release
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FREIRE SCHOOLS HOSTS MAYORAL TOWN HALL WITH MIDDLE SCHOOL STUDENTS

Mayor addresses middle school students in advance of high school selection

Philadelphia, PA – This morning Philadelphia Mayor Jim Kenney held a town hall with 60 middle school students from across the city. The event was organized by the GreatPhillySchools and held at Freire Middle School. Students from Young Scholars Charter School, William D. Kelley Elementary School and Independent Mission Schools' Saint Malachy School joined students from Freire Middle School.

GreatPhillySchools is set to host its annual high school fair at the Philadelphia Convention Center from September 20-21. The fair gives students an opportunity to visit potential high schools and Mayor Kenney took the opportunity to address students about the decision that lies ahead of them.

"We were extremely honored to have had the Mayor share his thoughts and advice with our eighth-grade middle school students," said Chris Zagacki, Freire Middle School Head of School. "Mayor Kenney shared the importance of academics but also that students should choose a school that fits them, they should remain true to themselves and their interests, and there should be inclusion of all students. That advice very much reflects the Freire values.

Students had the opportunity to ask questions of the mayor which included a range of topics from charter school funding, availability of technical and performing arts schools in the city, and the importance of a good application essay.

"I liked having the mayor at my school to answer questions," said to A'yana Holloway, student at Freire Middle School. "I have a lot of questions about what I want to do, and it helped to learn more about what's out there."

Along with Freire Middle School, the Freire Family includes two charter high schools in the city of Philadelphia– Freire Charter High School and TECH Freire. Both high schools will be represented at this weekend's high school fair and will be available to students and families to ask questions and get information about Freire Schools.

For more information about Freire Schools, please visit www.freireschools.org.

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About Freire Schools

Freire Schools empowers students to build the future. We provide a rigorous education in a safe, creative, and supportive environment that enables and inspires all children to achieve.

Freire Schools is committed to ensuring that every single student who walks through our doors has the opportunity to succeed and grow. We provide students in underserved communities a college-prep learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking, and problem solving in an environment that emphasizes community, teamwork, and commitment to peace. We are four distinct schools in two different cities, each guided by the same values of equity, diversity, love, and critical thinking.