

# DECK THE HALLS



**FREIRE  
SCHOOLS**

DECEMBER 2022

**With the 2022-23 school year well underway, the Freire Schools hallways are abuzz with activity and excitement.**

Just four months ago, our buildings had that unique feeling schools get right before students arrive. Walls are freshly painted, floors are waxed, bulletin boards are readied to display student work – our hallways are like fresh canvases, full of promise and ready for each of our 2,000 students in our four campuses to make their marks that tell a distinctive story about the year. And, 2022-23 is shaping up to be a masterpiece!

Our students are settled back into the routines of school and life, and they are coming to school eager to engage at new levels. These are students who have developed significant resilience over the tumult of the past few years, but who now hold a new hope for what school should and will look like for them. This is a pivotal moment in education, and Freire Schools is determined to raise the bar for our kids, for ourselves as educators, and for the broader Freire Family supporting our students to success.

As you turn the page, we invite you into our halls to witness the many opportunities that raise the bar at Freire Schools. Opportunities for kids to discuss great books and music. Opportunities for students to take to the stage or the playing field and discover their abilities to lead. Opportunities for kids to say “I need help” and receive it easily and without judgment. Opportunities to celebrate achievement, and opportunities to try again.

These opportunities make our hallways bright, and are so much more than adornment – they are baked into Freire Schools’ DNA and are what bring joy to learning, prepare students for college, and empower them to build the future.

Our students are embracing this school year like never before, and this has only been possible because our friends’ support has been steadfast. As you “walk through our hallway,” we hope you find joy in these opportunities, the same way our Freire Family finds such joy in the opportunity to partner with you every day.





## THE BUSTLING HALLS OF FREIRE SCHOOLS

Take a stroll down our Freire hallway for a glimpse into the many opportunities, supports, and values that define student life at Freire Schools and Breathe Fire into our schools every day.

- 1 GRADUATION X2:** Freire Schools prepares kids to graduate from both high school and college, and the Class of 2022 was no exception! 89% of the 279 grads from our three high schools were accepted to 217 unique colleges and universities and earned over \$15.1 million in scholarships and aid.
- 2 CULTURE OF ASKING FOR AND RECEIVING HELP:** Recognizing when you need support and knowing where to access it are key to success in college and life. Freire Schools builds that culture every day with Academic Advisors, College Counselors, Emotional Supports therapists, and after school academic centers – all working together to support our kids to success.
- 3 BE A STAR:** Whether taking to the stage with our Broken Leg Players or running for Student Government, Freire students have abundant opportunities to develop as leaders and share their voices. From yoga to art to drumline, a typical Freire campus can offer as many as 18 clubs and 10 sports teams.
- 4 HIGH QUALITY INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS:** Our Freire Dragons are breathing fire in the classroom with our new high quality English Language Arts (EngageNY) and math (Illustrative Math) curricula – materials that are grade-level appropriate, meaningful, affirming, and aligned to college-level standards.
- 5 THE BALL IS IN OUR COURT:** Freire Wilmington is preparing to develop a new athletic facility worthy of our students in 2023, finally providing home court energy for our volleyball and basketball teams and opportunities for engagement schoolwide!

- 6 HALLS FILLED WITH MUSIC:** With a generous grant from the William Penn Foundation, Freire Schools has partnered with World Cafe Live to provide live music experiences and education at our three Philly campuses.
- 7 POWER OF YET:** When Freire students don't succeed on an assessment, they know it just means they haven't mastered it yet. Multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate mastery on assessments encourage students to embrace a growth mindset.
- 8 COMMITMENT TO PEACE:** Safe and peaceful schools free our kids to take risks and dream bigger. As part of our ongoing Commitment to Antiracist Action, we are building off a pilot at Freire Middle School to train a cohort of teachers and leaders network-wide in developing restorative classrooms that uplift student voice.
- 9 MAKING MOVES IN THE CITY:** From college visits to service learning trips to career fairs, Freire Schools brings the community to our classrooms and our classrooms to the community. Stop by TECH Freire on Monday nights for Chess in the City and see how a game can unite a community.
- 10 POSSIBLE BECAUSE OF YOU:** All the beauty and opportunity in our hallways is made possible through the commitment and generosity of our supporters. Add your name to this year's Wall of Giving so our kids can see how many people believe in their power to build the future.

**ONLINE STUDENT WORK GALLERY:** Let's keep the tour going! Explore some of the exciting and thought-provoking work our students are making this year in our new online gallery by scanning the code to the right.



# THANK YOU!

## YOUR SUPPORT CREATES OPPORTUNITIES FOR FREIRE SCHOOLS' AMAZING STUDENTS!

All the little things that bring about a big impact for our students – from high interest after school clubs, to individual therapy, to restorative circles – are possible because you empowered us to do whatever it takes to ensure our schools are full of joy and growth. Thank you.

When we ring in 2023, our school community will be looking forward to the new activities and experiences that will continue to deck our halls, including celebrating the accomplishments of our impressive Class of 2023. We hope you take a moment to reflect on the opportunities that brought you joy this year – and the power you hold to bring life-changing opportunities to our students.

There is no doubt that our students have harder lives as a result of the pandemic, and need us now more than ever. We are up to the challenge, because our Freire Family extends far beyond our schools to our friends and partners who believe that our students hold the key to building joyful and thriving communities.

SUPPORT FREIRE SCHOOLS TODAY: [FREIRESCHOOLS.ORG/SUPPORT](https://FREIRESCHOOLS.ORG/SUPPORT)

“IN A FREIRE HALLWAY I SEE JOY, I SEE CONNECTION, AND, ABOVE ALL, I SEE HOPE.”

### NATE DURANT

Head of School, TECH Freire

