



The City School

LIGHT TO THE CITY

Our theme verse this year at The City School is Joshua 1:7-9.

“Be strong and very courageous. Be careful to obey all the law my servant Moses gave you; do not turn from it to the right or to the left, that you may be successful wherever you go. Keep this Book of the Law always on your lips; meditate on it day and night, so that you may be careful to do everything written in it. Then you will be prosperous and successful. Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged, for the Lord your God will be with you wherever you go.”

Indeed, the Lord has been with us over the last year.

The City School bears the legacy of three Christian schools in Philadelphia, each committed to bringing Jesus’ grace and peace to our city through the education of young learners. **Our rich heritage is equally drawn from Spruce Hill Christian School, City Center Academy, and Philadelphia Mennonite High School (PMHS).** These mergers were strategic risks—fears we faced in hope that God could use our shared talents and treasures more powerfully together than apart.

Each school had its own board of directors and a unique faith identity, and it has taken time to cultivate trust among these diverse communities. Because we have been able to cultivate a community of trust where our individual stories are equally honored, we have been able to set the foundation for a flourishing and vibrant community that reaches more students each year.

In 2014, PMHS students joined their peers at The City School’s high school campus at Rittenhouse. Two years and \$500,000 in renovations later, we have completed the first academic year with elementary students at the former PMHS building, now The City School’s Fairmount campus. This campus currently serves 67 students, Pre-K through 2nd grade, and will add a grade each year until the building is at full capacity serving students through 5th grade.

The City School brings together a loyal Mennonite community with the Presbyterians who started our Rittenhouse and Spruce Hill campuses, the Chinese Church that hosts our Walnut Street campus and the many local churches where our students fellowship, including Enon Tabernacle Baptist Church which now hosts our largest annual event. **God is using The City School to do something remarkable in Philadelphia, bringing together the Body of Christ across lines that typically divide us—denomination, race, and geography to name a few—to bring his Shalom to one of our city’s greatest challenges: education.** We praise God for the spirit of unity that has prevailed during this period of growth.

The City School has grown from a K-12 enrollment of 299 in the first year of our merger with Philadelphia Mennonite High School, to our current enrollment of 350, adding our first Pre-K cohort. Together, we are embarking on an ambitious vision for growth as we look toward the establishment of a larger upper school campus in the coming years. This will allow us to serve our growing student body through improved extracurricular and academic offerings.

Last year, donors who came to The City School through PMHS gave \$480,000 in scholarships to students of The City School. We are greatly encouraged by these loyal relationships and invite the prayers and support of the Eastern District and Franconia Mennonite Conferences as we seek to remain faithful to all that God is doing here in Philadelphia. **Together we are making the city a more peaceful place—one child at a time.**