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# EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

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CASE FOR SUPPORT • EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

MARCH 2011

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## SUMMARY MISSION STATEMENT

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Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is committed to providing a rigorous and engaging K-5 curriculum built on Virginia's Science SOLs, increasing Richmond Public Schools educational options, and contributing to enhancing the quality of Richmond's educational programs.

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## HOW PATRICK HENRY SCHOOL OF SCIENCE AND ARTS BEGAN

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Hurricane Ernesto hit Richmond and caused destruction citywide. When Richmond Public School A.V. Norrell Elementary was closed because of flooding, students were moved to the empty Patrick Henry Elementary School on Semmes Avenue in Woodland Heights. The students stayed there for several months, and neighbors were excited to have the old school building back in use. The school had been recently closed by the Richmond Public Schools board due to redistricting and dwindling enrollment.

When neighbors approached Richmond Public Schools (RPS) to see if Patrick Henry could remain open once the Norrell students returned to their home school, officials said it was unlikely. Community members came together to organize their own school and in March 2007 the Patrick Henry School Initiative (PHSI) was formed. PHSI officials spent the next year building a solid grassroots foundation for what was soon to be the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts. Volunteers went door-to-door gathering petition signatures and in June 2007 PHSI held the Patrick Henry Festival at the school to commemorate 85 years of educating students in that building.

In May 2008 history was made in Richmond when RPS approved PHSSA's charter application for the first charter school in the city of Richmond and only the fourth charter school in the state. The school was temporarily established in the Woodland Heights Baptist Church - Education Center on August 11, 2010 with an inaugural class of 140 students. The lease for the Patrick Henry building was signed with RPS in November 2010 with the intent that the student body will move into the building in September 2011.

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## CHARTER SCHOOLS - WHAT ARE THEY? WHY DO WE NEED THEM?

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Charter schools are public schools granted autonomy to operate outside local school district policies. With this independence, charter school leadership and educators have the freedom to create new curricula and programs designed to enhance learning while remaining committed to superior levels of academic achievement. Charter schools offer opportunities to experience new methods of teaching and learning that also have the potential to benefit the entire public school system. As a partner of RPS, PHSSA is a self-governed school open to all families within the city of Richmond. With the support of RPS, PHSSA has become the realization of a charter school shared by parents, educators, and elected officials alike. PHSSA will contribute to the overall success of RPS by providing an alternative choice of a non-traditional classroom environment for students and their families, which is a huge selling point in City economic development.

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## PHSSA FULFILLS AN IMPORTANT ROLE IN OUR COMMUNITY AND IN SOCIETY

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PHSSA is steeped in the belief that great education comes about through a partnership between the school and the families it serves. This philosophy is based on beliefs that public schools bring diverse people together and that a private/public partnership integrated with the community is an alternative model that will enable creative teaching approaches.

The school's long-term plans include the development of a science resource program that can be used by other Richmond public schools. The school's curriculum is aligned with the Smart Growth Plan, which includes issues directly affecting the environment.

*"I've been at a lot of schools around the country and I don't think I have ever experienced one that had quite this level of excitement, commitment, and love. We wrote some amazing songs at Patrick Henry because the atmosphere was so creative, so supportive for the children."*

*– Paul Reisler, Music Director & Composer, Kid Pan Alley at the PHSSA Community Concert on January 14, 2011*

*“Charter school students are more likely to be proficient in reading and math than students in neighboring conventional schools. The greatest achievement gains can be seen among African-American, Hispanic, or low-income students.” – Harvard University study*

Instruction at PHSSA is differentiated to meet the needs of all learners. It centers on the science of the natural world, promoting science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Using an interdisciplinary science-based curriculum, as well as required family involvement, a progressive quarter calendar, and hands-on outdoor lessons, PHSSA will meet the educational needs of Richmond city children, enabling them to competitively participate in college preparatory classes.

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## PHSSA IS A DISTINCTIVE MODEL OF EDUCATION

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The volunteer leadership, the administration, and the faculty of Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts are committed to providing high quality K-5 curriculum and instructional practices that enable Richmond students to meet the challenging student academic achievement standards of the Commonwealth of Virginia.

1. An obvious benefit to the school is its proximity to Forest Hill and the James River Parks, which provides a learning environment distinct from other Richmond public schools.
2. The integrated curriculum uses active learning techniques that address multiple subject areas concurrently. The curriculum, combined with the overall progressive approach to learning, provides PHSSA students an opportunity to develop advanced skills, strong personal values, and critical social and cultural understandings.
3. PHSSA's integrative educational program is designed to meet Virginia's Standards of Learning (SOLs) through a curriculum anchored in the Sciences and Arts. This integrated program model is guided by over 20 years of studies by educators that have demonstrated the benefits of integrated curriculum. The integrated curriculum:
  - Increases depth and breadth of learning
  - Creates an ability to utilize technology to further enhance comprehension

- Increases interest in science for both girls and boys
- Improves faster acquisition and application of skills
- Creates authentic meaningful learning
- Cultivates a positive attitude toward learning

4. The school's progressive quarter calendar allows the teaching staff to gather new data quarterly about students, assessments, and teaching methods. Based on research that shows increased student achievement with increased parental involvement, PHSSA has included family involvement contracts into its enrollment expectations. Families are required to contribute six hours of service per semester. In addition, PHSSA has a required uniform/dress code for all students.



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## PHSSA EDUCATIONAL OBJECTIVES

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The Board of Directors of Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts has carefully and thoughtfully adopted clear academic objectives as a firm educational foundation for the first charter school in the city of Richmond:

- Establish an elementary school for the Richmond community that is based on the Virginia Standards of Quality, Accreditation, and Learning
- Hire highly qualified administrators, faculty, and staff members
- Implement an academically rigorous curriculum
- Promote an interdisciplinary approach to teaching all subjects
- Emphasize environmental science as a core subject
- Integrate classroom knowledge and art instruction
- Provide continuum of placements for students with special education needs
- Use multi-sensory and differentiated instructional approaches as a means of reducing the need for remedial and pull-out instruction, thus facilitating higher overall student achievement
- Develop an understanding and appreciation of the evolving social and cultural world
- Use integrated assessment methods to measure the whole child
- Grow the science curriculum, lab, and

facilities to develop a science resource center that will be accessible to all area public elementary students. The resource center will use Forest Hill Park in conjunction with SOL-based lessons and labs to extend the school's hands-on learning opportunities to all the city's children.

- Long-range (3-5 year) objectives include establishing an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (IBPYP), offering a foreign language to every student, and constructing a greenhouse to enhance the learning laboratory and facilitate addition of agriculture lessons to the school's curriculum.

Assessing the instruction and learning at PHSSA is integral to the operation of the school. Interim progress reports of student proficiency in the core academic standards are required and evaluated. Also monitored is the level of the implementation of the LEA/School Improvement Plan and other technical assistance documentation is collected.

In addition to state-required assessments such as PALS and SOL testing, PHSSA measures:

- Literacy
- Portfolios
- Progress Reports/Teacher Evaluations
- Project Learning and Self-Evaluation
- Individualized Educational Plans (IEPs)

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## ADMISSION TO PHSSA WILL ENSURE DIVERSITY

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Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is open to all Richmond city children in grades K-5. As a public school, there is no tuition, no tests to qualify for admission, and no preferred status on the basis of income. As an opened-zoned school, PHSSA will provide a viable educational option.

Our school is committed to equitable access to the school's development, as well as to all our teachers, students and families and staff. Our program is designed to promote classroom diversity, meeting educational needs of all children who attend, including exceptional education.

In the inaugural class, 58% are African-American, 38% are Caucasian, and 5% are from other ethnic backgrounds. Efforts to reach a diverse student population include reaching out to child care centers, churches, libraries, the YMCA, and other organizations. In addition, PHSSA conducted an advertising campaign



*“Like President Obama, I am a strong proponent of high-quality charter schools. We both recognize that increasing choice within our public education system benefits students, parents, and teachers. Right now Virginia has one of the weakest charter school laws in the country, and with the opening of the Patrick Henry Charter School in Richmond this spring, we will have only four of the estimated 4,600 charter schools operating nationwide. That is unacceptable. When I leave office I want Virginia to be in the vanguard of the national charter-school movement.”*  
 – Governor Robert McDonnell

for the month of January 2010 with funds from a Federal Department of Education grant, promoting the school and the student applications. Advertisements were placed in the *Richmond Free Press* and *The Voice*. Our future plans include all of these methods to ensure diversity.

- Year 1 (2010-11) 140 students
- Year 2 (2011-12) 200 students
- Year 3 (2012-13) 350 students (full capacity)

In Year 1, per-pupil funding is \$9,856 and by Year 3 it may be reduced to \$9,000.

## QUANTIFIABLE OBJECTIVES AND MEASURES FOR SUCCESS

The intent of PHSSA is to increase the number of high performing schools in Richmond and ultimately be a model in its own right for extension of additional effective teaching strategies. To accomplish this, PHSSA has set forth the following four objectives.

- In 2012-2013, enrollment at PHSSA will mirror the diversity of the City of Richmond, presenting demographics as follows within a standard deviation of 10%: African American = 57.19%, Caucasian = 38.30%, Hispanic = 2.57%, Asian = 1.25%, others = 0.69%.
- By the conclusion of the 2012-2013 academic year 80% of third and fifth graders will read at or above grade level.
- Enrollment will grow to 350 students by year three, with an average daily attendance of > 90%.
- 80% of eligible students will, by 2012-13, pass Virginia Standards of Learning objectives for English, Science, Mathematics, History, and Social Science.

## PROJECTIONS OF STUDENT GROWTH OVER THREE YEARS

Enrollment objectives reflect a phase-in instructional culture. We anticipate that the student population will grow gradually over the first three years of operation as follows:

## THE “EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

The focus of the fundraising goals and objectives adopted by the Board remains steadfastly on the mission of undergirding and expanding opportunities within the Richmond Public School system. PHSSA fosters creative educational experiences for students and the support of teachers in the delivery of instruction. Through this campaign, we are lifting up the importance of private support to give public school students experiences that will improve the quality of their lives and the quality of our community. Achievement of these goals is possible only by the voluntary support from individuals, businesses, and other organizations who believe, as we do, that a bright future for our community lies in guaranteeing a solid public education for our children.

An additional benefit of this project, but an important consideration in opening Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, is that of giving renewed life to a ca. 1921 historic facility. Generations of students were given their educational start in life at this school. Now the building will serve as the place to inculcate new generations of children with a love of learning that will carry forward throughout their lives.

## THE “EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES” CAPITAL CAMPAIGN HAS BEEN DIVIDED INTO THREE PHASES:

### Phase I – East side lower, cafeteria, and first floor levels

Feb 2011 – Aug 2011	\$400,000
Renovate exterior and interior to bring the building up to code and provide handicap accessibility	

### Phase II – Second Floor Level

Aug 2011 – Aug 2012	\$550,000
Extend chair lift to second floor; provide accessible toilets; install ADA compliant hardware; kitchen up fit; refurbish auditorium and add wheelchair access	

### Phase IIA

Aug 2011 – Aug 2012	\$100,000
Install dedicated outdoor air system	

### Phase III

Aug 2011 – Aug 2013	\$400,000
Install accessible faculty toilet, install chair lift at west exterior stair; upgrade west basement toilets; replace west basement sinks; install storm windows; upgrade playground	

<b>Total Funds Needed</b>	<b>\$1,450,000</b>
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Together, we must raise funds for ADA and life safety upgrades to the almost 90 year-old school building, replace kitchen equipment and windows to make the building energy efficient, provide computers and other technology for students, and cosmetic upgrades to create an inspiring learning environment for the children. By investing in capital improvements in the building, PHSSA is also preserving a historic building. We have created Patrick Henry Charter LLC, a financial mechanism to allow us to use State Historic Rehabilitation Tax Credits. The school building was certified as significant in May 2010 and the second phase of the application is pending. This new financial mechanism, as well as the energy savings produced by the renovation, can be used by RPS for other schools to lower their total cost per year to educate each child.

Our overall fundraising goal for the next three years is \$1.45 million. The renovation cost estimates have helped us set our campaign fundraising goals. Like any other school, we are continuously raising money for school improvements so that we can provide the best environment and education possible for the children in our school.



## WAYS TO GIVE

Income taxes and estate taxes can be greatly reduced by choosing the most advantageous type of property, timing, and method of giving to Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts. Such tax savings may enable individuals to make larger gifts than ordinarily thought possible. The most practical giving plan depends upon a person's particular interest and circumstances and should be determined in consultation with a Campaign Committee representative as well as with a professional tax advisor. Following is a list of some of the methods most widely employed.

- **Gifts of Cash** – immediate donation and/or pledge over a 3-5 year period of time
- **Gifts of Securities** – such as stocks and bonds that are publicly traded and readily marketable
- **Real Estate** – subject to approval by the Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts Board of Directors
- **Other Appreciated Property** – such as works of art, jewelry, or other items with a value established by an independent appraiser

## NAMING OPPORTUNITIES

Those who make significant contributions in support of Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts are rewarded in perpetuity through the lives of the children and families their giving touches. However, the School wishes to recognize such gifts in a more visible way. Therefore, appropriate plaques or other signage will be placed denoting those who make gifts to name a particular unit within the building. These naming opportunities range from \$250,000 for the auditorium to \$10,000 to name a classroom.

Auditorium	\$250,000
Kitchen**	\$100,000
Outdoor Classroom	\$100,000
ADA Enhancements	\$100,000
Cafetorium**	\$50,000
Library/Media Center**	\$50,000
Playground	\$50,000
Parent Welcome Center	\$25,000
Administrative Offices	\$25,000
Wellness Center	\$25,000
19 Classrooms, Each	\$10,000

\*\*A donor has reserved this opportunity with a gift



For more information about Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts, visit the website: **[www.PatrickHenryCharter.org](http://www.PatrickHenryCharter.org)**.

To contact PHSSA by mail, please write to:

The Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts  
P.O. Box 2459  
Richmond, VA 23218

You can also get in touch with PHSSA via email:

- To volunteer: **[info@patrickhenrycharter.org](mailto:info@patrickhenrycharter.org)**
- To sign up for news updates: **[news@patrickhenrycharter.org](mailto:news@patrickhenrycharter.org)**
- General Inquires: **[info@patrickhenrycharter.org](mailto:info@patrickhenrycharter.org)**

Patrick Henry School of Science and Arts is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization.

All gifts are tax deductible to extent allowed by law.