

A Letter from

May 25, 2017



The Executive Director



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Satsun Photography

Dear Stokes School Community,

On Monday of this week, several members of our leadership team and our board chair participated in the DC Public Charter School Board's May meeting to discuss our request for a charter amendment. We requested an increase in our enrollment ceiling, and permission to replicate our program at a new campus. Our current charter agreement allows us to operate pre-k through fifth grade at our Brookland campus with no more than 350 students. If approved, the charter amendment request will allow us to open an additional school campus at the start of school year 2018-19. Our plan is to open the new school with four pre-kindergarten and two kindergarten classes. We will add one grade level per year until we reach full capacity with up to 400 students in school year 2023-24.

As many of you know, our decision to replicate is driven by several factors:

- Stokes School is a top tier school and our school model has proven to be successful and sustainable;
- Our students outperform their peers in traditional public and public charter schools throughout the city;
- There is a much greater demand for seats at Stokes than we can currently accommodate;
- The demand for language immersion programs and high performing schools is not currently being met by DCPS and DC Public Charter Schools.

Ideally, we would like to open the second campus in a facility East of the River (EOTR) in Ward 7 or 8. We are focusing on this area of the city because there is a shortage of high quality public education seats throughout Washington, DC, but especially in Wards 7 and 8. Also, there is only one public school EOTR that offers a language immersion program. We believe we can bring programming that parents and community members EOTR have requested that has the same rigor and quality as our current school. Stokes school's mission is to prepare students to be leaders, scholars, and responsible citizens who are committed to social justice, and we believe that opening an additional campus helps to further our mission by allowing us to reach more students.

If/when the DC Public Charter School Board votes to approve our amendment request, we will have an entire year to plan and prepare for the opening of the second campus. Careful planning is essential to ensure high-quality replication and support culture building at our new campus, while maintaining the quality of academics and culture at our current campus. The DC Public Charter School Board will vote on our charter amendment request on June 19th. We hope for a favorable outcome and will continue to provide updates and details on this process as they become available.

As always, if you have any questions, comments or concerns about any of these matters please feel free to contact me.

Best regards,

Erika Bryant
Executive Director