



**Elementary/Middle School**

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**Dr. Rhonda L. Richetta, Ed.D., Principal**

September 23, 2020

Council President Scott and Chairwoman Middleton:

This is my fourteenth year as principal of City Springs Elementary/Middle School. City Springs has been a pillar in the community for over 50 years. Having a brand-new school building will put us in a position to extend our impact on the community. I have always longed for the day that our students would not have to live and attend school in a high concentration of poverty. City Springs will be a diverse school and a source of strength, binding the new community together.

The PSO transformation will deconcentrate poverty and bring mixed income housing to this area, allowing the families who live here now to still live here in a new, diverse community. The new City Springs school building will be a focus of this new community, welcoming all who will live here with the promise of a first-class education in a first-class school environment.

As a conversion charter school, operated by the Baltimore Curriculum Project, we have been able to keep the same neighborhood population in our school. Our operator provides us with high quality professional development and allows us to be innovative, implementing proven, research-based curriculum and programs. I have always felt that I could recruit any families in our zone if we had a modern, state-of-the-art school building to match the caliber of our staff.

During the site visit for the Choice Neighborhood Grant, one of my students said, "We are held back from achieving all we can because of the economic challenges our school and community face. We want to go to a nice school and live in a community where we believe we can do anything we put our minds to. We want to feel like we matter. With these opportunities you will be setting in motion a positive force for change that will transform a whole generation of youth forever." I think she put it perfectly.

For these reasons, and many more, City Springs Elementary/Middle School supports the PSO TIF.

Best Regards,

Rhonda L. Richetta, Principal



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CURRICULUM  
PROJECT**

*City Springs is a Baltimore Curriculum Project Public Charter School*