



January 2018

Dear Coolidge High School Community,

DC Public Schools (DCPS) is excited to share updates on program plans for Coolidge High School. In School Year 2019-2020, Coolidge High School will open in its new building with a high school program defined by three academies: Health sciences, mass media, and a new, selective early college program.

Coolidge High School has a rich history. We are excited to develop a plan for Coolidge's future that will build on this robust history, while also introducing and expanding program options that will ensure Coolidge remains a thriving option for DC families, in particular our Ward 4 families.

DCPS has engaged with the Coolidge community on plans for both Coolidge and the new middle school through parent meetings, staff meetings, student focus groups, community meetings, and an online survey about Coolidge and the new middle school. The future plan for these academies is directly shaped by engagement with the Coolidge community. Here's what we have heard:

- The community values the mass media and health sciences academies currently at Coolidge and want these programs to remain open to in-boundary families to provide excellent academic opportunities to students.
- Parents, students, and staff want more options for rigor in high school. We've heard this through engagement, but also see this in our enrollment data: hundreds of students from the Coolidge boundary attend other high schools, including selective DCPS schools or high schools outside of Ward 4.
- Families and staff are excited about the opportunities for a robust middle school experience. They want the new middle school to be aligned to the high school, but also be a distinct school focused on the needs of middle school students.

In an effort to make this vision a reality, the academies at Coolidge will offer a range of quality program options for the Coolidge community and citywide.

**Health Sciences Academy:**

- In-boundary and feeder school students have right to enroll;
- Academy continues to grow and establishes dual enrollment partnerships;
- Courses in science electives and university partnership for dual enrollment opportunities and faculty-teacher partnerships;
- Career partnerships via industry board supports, guest speakers, site visits, and paid internships; and
- Certified Nursing Assistant and First Aid certifications.

**Mass Media Academy:**

- In-boundary and feeder school students have right to enroll;
- Career academy program, modeled on Health Science Academy;
- Courses in journalism and production electives and university partnership for dual enrollment opportunities;

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- Career partnerships via an industry board, guest speakers, site visits, and paid internships; and
  - Adobe Premier Pro and After Effects certifications.

**Early College Academy:**

- Citywide application program via My School DC lottery;
- Program will grow grade by grade, starting with grade 9 in School Year 2019-2020; and
- Courses in grades 9 and 10 are high school level, with a priority on including Advanced Placement opportunities. Courses in grades 11 and 12 are college courses with University Partners, earning up to 60 credits by the end of grade 12.

There will be one principal to oversee all three academies and to build a cohesive, aligned, and integrated school culture; additionally, each academy will have its own director. The middle school will have its own principal and separate entrance and classroom spaces. The middle school will open with 6<sup>th</sup> grade in School Year 2019-2020 and grow grade-by-grade. Our vision is that middle school students will enter Coolidge High School ready to succeed in any of the three academies. We believe that the academies at Coolidge will provide the set of experiences and opportunities to ensure all Coolidge students graduate ready for college and career.

Over the next few months, DCPS will continue to progress on solidifying university and community partners who will support the academies, and we look forward to sharing these updates with the community as they are finalized. We will also be working with Principal Bright to set up a time to share more information with Coolidge families and students. Please look out for more details on this in the coming weeks.

We appreciate your input in this process so far, and look forward to continuing our work over the coming months on the development and implementation of the program offerings at both Coolidge and the middle school. You can learn more about this process on the DCPS School Planning blog at <http://bit.ly/coolidgeplanning>, or contact the Planning Team at [DCPS.Planning@dc.gov](mailto:DCPS.Planning@dc.gov) to find out how to get involved.

Sincerely,



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