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### Academy In Manayunk

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# State of the School Report



## Academy In Manayunk

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

July 2009

# Academy In Manayunk

## State of the School Report

### July, 2009

As the Academy In Manayunk (AIM) completes its third year of operation, it is fitting to reflect on all that has been accomplished on behalf of the children who attend this amazing school. Modeled after The Lab School of Washington® in DC, AIM has proven true to its mission of providing extraordinary educational experiences to children with learning disabilities, and to the mission of disseminating best practices to educators and professionals in the region. Growing from just 27 students in year one, the Academy In Manayunk will enroll 115 children in grades 1 through 10 during the 2009-2010 school year. Over 300 educators received teacher training from AIM this year.

#### Faculty and Staff

The success of the Academy In Manayunk is directly attributable to its professional, motivated, and highly skilled faculty and staff. Starting with less than 10 employees when AIM first opened, the full time equivalent of the school is over 35 educators and professionals in special education, reading, psychology (3 school psychologists), speech and language (4 therapists), and occupational therapy (2 therapists). This team has logged hundreds of hours of professional development in their respective fields in order to stay on the cutting edge of research-based strategies and programs. All teachers are special education certified or certified in their area of specialty and most have their Master’s Degrees. Several AIM faculty members are now enrolled in Ph.D. programs (one already has a Ph.D. from Harvard University), and are serving as adjunct faculty for area universities. These accomplishments will insure the Academy In Manayunk’s leadership role in the community.

#### Management Team

**Pat Roberts**, *Executive Director*, addressed 2000 graduates as the 2009 commencement speaker for West Chester University in May and focused on the critical success factors of passion, partnership and collaboration, all key to AIM’s growth. **Nancy Blair**, *Associate Director*, led the Wilson Partnership Program at AIM as a Wilson Trainer and directed the training of 193 teachers this past year along with her focus on admissions. **Kris McGuirk**, *Education Director*, **Carrie Shankweiler**, *Head of Upper School*, Dr. Grace Ashton, Director of Psychological Services, **Pam Greenblatt**, *Director of Speech and Language Services*, and **Melissa Gatlin**, *Director of Occupational Therapy Services*, lead our entrepreneurial and research-based management team.

Three key management positions have been filled for the 2009-2010 school year. **Kathy Johnson** joins us as *Head of Lower School* with over 20 years of teaching experience. She holds a Master’s Degree in Special Education from Johns Hopkins University, reading and Wilson certifications, and worked for the past five years as a learning specialist at Woodlynde School. **Keith Wilford** joins AIM as the *Dean of Students and Director of Athletics*. Keith previously worked at Baltimore Friends as Director of Athletics and Malvern Prep as their Director of Diversity. Keith has his Master’s Degree in School Counseling from Widener University and is currently completing his Doctorate in Secondary School Administration. **Alan Stifelman** has assumed the role of *Director of Finance and Operations*. Alan worked for the past 17 years as Business Manager at Buckingham Friends School. He holds his BS in accounting from Rutgers University and is a CPA.

#### Educational Excellence

The academic integrity of the Academy In Manayunk, in conjunction with The Lab School of Washington®, is its point of difference. With its focus on arts-based learning and educational enrichment along with the most cutting-edge research-based programs available, students at the Academy In Manayunk are thriving. As students experience success in areas that have traditionally been challenging, their confidence and self-esteem soar. As a Wilson Partner School, the Academy In Manayunk leads the region in Wilson and Foundations programming. Research-based programs such as LETRS, RAVE-O, Interactive Metronome, and Cogmed, round out the unique set of offerings available to AIM students. No other school can match this offering.

#### Data-Driven Results

The Academy In Manayunk sets high expectations for the achievement results of the students in its care. The research is clear...children with learning disabilities can achieve academic success when programs are delivered with fidelity and intensity. Annually, quarterly and monthly, student progress is monitored to insure that the programs are truly meeting the learning needs of each student. If expected progress is not measured, modifications to the individual educational program of the student are made. Each child’s strengths and interests are also supported as students work on areas of need, particularly in the areas of reading, writing and math. Last year, 85% of the students made over a year’s worth of progress in less than a year of instructional time!

#### AIM Board of Trustees and Financial Positioning

The Academy In Manayunk is honored to have one of the most prestigious and committed boards in the region. Led by Sam Greenblatt, Chair, and Matt Naylor, Vice-Chair, the balance sheet of the school reflects a stable and well-run organization thanks to the talented members of the Finance Committee and administration. With cash reserves in excess of one million dollars, the fiscal stability of the Academy In Manayunk will enable it to enter its fourth year of operation with the ability to continue to provide an exemplary program for all students. This cash reserve is all the more extraordinary when one considers that the Academy In Manayunk expanded to a second building this year in order to accommodate its growing enrollment. The capital expense to prepare this Upper School building was self-funded without the need for a loan. Diversification of funding streams such as teacher training provides the Academy In Manayunk with the ability to stay agile in the current economic climate. The philanthropic focus of the Board of Trustees, AIM families and friends continues to provide a firm foundation for growth.

#### Future of the AIM Institute for Learning and Research

With growing university partnerships and a new initiative with Einstein Hospital’s pediatric residency program, the vision of the AIM Institute for Learning and Research will unfold in dramatic ways in 2009-2010. Imagine working side-by-side with pediatric residents to identify children who are at risk for learning disabilities. Also this year, Temple University and the Academy In Manayunk will begin to publish results from a joint research project in psychology. The AIM Institute will focus all eyes on the Greater Philadelphia region as a hub for leading practitioners and researchers in the field of learning disabilities in the coming years.