



52 Chambers Street  
New York, NY 10007

February 2, 2024

Dear City Knoll Families:

I am writing to share that the New York City Department of Education (NYCDOE) is proposing to merge City Knoll Middle School (City Knoll, 02M933) with The Facing History School (Facing History, 02M303) in building M535 in the 2024-2025 school year. City Knoll is a district middle school serving students in grades 6-8 in building M111. City Knoll has been temporarily co-located with P.S. 111 Adolph S. Ochs (P.S. 111, 02M111) a district elementary school serving students in grades K-5 as well as a pre-Kindergarten program, since the 2019-2020 school year. M111 is located at 440 West 53<sup>rd</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019 in Community School District 2, referred to as District 2.

Facing History is a district high school currently serving students in grades 9-12 in M535, located at 525 West 50<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10019. M535 is also in District 2, 0.3 miles from M111. Facing History is co-located in M535 with four other district high schools serving students in grades 9-12: High School of Hospitality Management (Hospitality Management, 02M296), Food and Finance High School (Food and Finance, 02M288), Manhattan Bridges High School (Manhattan Bridges, 02M542), and The Urban Assembly School of Design and Construction (Design and Construction, 02M300). Additionally, M535 also houses a site of an existing multi-sited District 75 program, P.S. 138 (P138M@M535, 75M138), which serves students in grades 9-12. M535 also houses the school-based health center Ryan Health Chelsea-Clinton.

### **What is the NYCDOE proposing?**

The NYCDOE is proposing a school merger. A merger means that two existing schools are combined into one school to operate and serve students more effectively. Proposals for mergers seek to improve learning environments by combining the strengths and best practices of both schools and distributing resources to reinforce academic enrichment opportunities, interventions, and other supports.

If this proposal is approved, City Knoll will be combined with Facing History such that the students, staff, and resources of City Knoll will become a part of the merged school, Facing History, which will serve students in grades 6-12 as of the 2024-2025 school year. If this proposal is approved, City Knoll will no longer exist as a distinct school option as of the 2024-2025 school year and will no longer serve students in the M111 building.

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the Panel for Educational Policy (PEP) prior to implementation.

### **If this proposal is approved by the PEP, what does this mean for my child(ren)?**

- Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, current City Knoll students will be served alongside current Facing History students at the merged Facing History in the M535 building.
- City Knoll will no longer be a distinct school option as of the 2024-2025 school year and will no longer serve students in M111. Beginning in the 2024-2025 school year, if this proposal is approved, the merged Facing History will serve all students in M535.

- The merged school will offer seats previously offered at City Knoll and will admit students through the middle school admissions process with an open admission method open to students and residents of New York City with a priority to District 2 students or residents, followed by Manhattan students or residents.
  - At the high school level, the merged Facing History will admit students through an Educational Option admissions method, with a priority for continuing students. The school will be open to students and residents of New York City with a priority to Manhattan students or residents.
  - Current sixth and seventh grade students enrolled at City Knoll as well as eighth grade students who do not articulate to high school who prefer a different school option in their district(s) of eligibility may seek a transfer for the 2024-2025 school year through the NYCDOE's Office of Student Enrollment by speaking first with school administrators and then visiting a Family Welcome Center, which will work to match students based on their needs and seat availability in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-101.
  - Current fifth grade students who are matched to City Knoll through the middle school admissions process but who are interested in options other than the merged Facing History may add themselves to waitlists for other schools to which they are eligible.
  - Current eighth grade City Knoll students will have priority access to the merged Facing History's waitlist for ninth grade for the 2024-2025 school year.
- In the 2024-2025 school year, the merged Facing History in M535 is projected to have a total enrollment of 385-455 students. There is sufficient space in M535 to accommodate this enrollment.
  - The merger of City Knoll and Facing History may impact educational and/or extra-curricular programming available to students. The NYCDOE expects that the merged school will be able to increase the programmatic opportunities available to students from City Knoll and Facing History due to the combination of the two schools' individual resources. The merged school may offer new opportunities in place of or in addition to current offerings at both schools.
  - In the 2024-2025 school year, the merged Facing History will remain a Community School partnering with community-based organizations and continuing to offer services including mental health services and after-school programs, pending funding.
  - All current students enrolled at City Knoll and future students enrolled at the merged Facing History receiving special education or English Language Learner services will continue to receive all mandated services at the merged school.
  - Since M535 is approximately 0.3 miles from M111, some current City Knoll students may have a longer commute, while others may have a shorter commute. Additionally, since eligibility for transportation is based on the distance between a student's home and school, this proposal, if approved, may impact transportation eligibility for some current City Knoll students, which will be provided in accordance with Chancellor's Regulation A-801.

### **Where can I learn more about this proposal?**

This letter serves as notice that the Educational Impact Statement (EIS) for this proposal has been posted on the NYCDOE's website at: <https://www.schools.nyc.gov/about-us/leadership/panel-for-education-policy/2023-2024-pages/march-20-2024-school-utilization-proposals>.

We encourage you to visit that website as we will update it with important dates and new information as it becomes available. Copies of the EIS for this proposal are also available in the main offices of P.S. 111, City Knoll, Facing History, Food and Finance, Hospitality Management, Manhattan Bridges, Design and Construction, and P138M@M535.

**How can I provide feedback?**

This proposal must be voted on and approved by the PEP prior to implementation. We anticipate that the PEP will vote on this proposal on Wednesday, March 20, 2024 at 6 p.m. at Bayard Rustin Educational Campus, located at 351 West 18<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10011.

In advance of the PEP vote, a Joint Public Hearing for this proposal will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024. All community members will have the opportunity to share feedback about this proposal at the Joint Public Hearing, which will begin at 6 p.m.

Feedback on the proposal can also be directed at any time to Caitlin Whittmore in the NYCDOE's Office of District Planning by phone at 212-374-3466 or via e-mail at [D02proposals@schools.nyc.gov](mailto:D02proposals@schools.nyc.gov).

The official Notices of Proposal and Joint Public Hearing are attached.

Sincerely,



Kelly McGuire  
Community School District 2 Superintendent