

March 9, 2021

Dear Friends of Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School,

Springtime has brought some new signs of life to Cristo Rey, including previews of some exciting new improvements that will be a part of our new normal.

At Cristo Rey, our commitment to the care for the whole person begins with deliberate attention to the importance of physical and mental health. In normal times, before the shutdown of in-person school, the students learned and practiced health and nutrition and fitness as part of our regular curriculum. Even during our COVID shutdown, we continued with virtual health and counseling programs.



COVID has underscored our priority for health support. This week, as students begin to return to our campus, we are launching the in-person component of our new school-based health clinic, which we hope will streamline access to medical services and reduce time away from school for students who need medical attention.

Cristo Rey's new health clinic has been more than two years in the making. We believe it will have a positive impact on the students' health, their academic achievement and engagement in school. We believe it will become a model for school-based health support.

Our clinic was designed and implemented through a collaboration of Temple University, Greater Philadelphia Health Action, Inc. (GPHA) and Cristo Rey. GPHA (a Federally Qualified Health Center) will staff the clinic with a Pediatrician and a Nurse Practitioner. The clinic will offer the same services (physicals, immunizations, sick visits, etc.) as a primary care physician, but a family does not need to change their regular PCP in order to receive services from the clinic. There will be no out of pocket costs for medical services to our families. Students can access the clinic even if they do not have insurance and the clinic will help all uninsured families to get insurance.

The clinic is off to a good start. Appointments are fully booked as students are returning to in-person school and athletics in the hybrid model.

Our community is excited by the possibilities of Cristo Rey's health clinic and we are eager to return to school in a new and better normal.

Sincerely,

John McConnell
Founder and President
Cristo Rey Philadelphia High School



Keshema Davidson, *Cristo Rey Manager of Community Affairs*, and
Dr. Natalie Mathurin, *GPHA Pediatrician & Clinical Director of Hunting Park Center*

Keshema organized and led the implementation of Cristo Rey's Health Clinic and partnership with GPHA.

