

THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

The Widener Memorial School

1450 W. Olney Ave

Philadelphia, PA 19141

Harris R. Gaffin, Principal

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September 10, 2024

Dear Widener Memorial School Community,

It is with a heavy heart that I inform you that as of November 8, 2024, I will be retiring from The School District of Philadelphia after more than 34 years of service. The decision to retire has been a difficult one to make because I have always loved my career and I believe strongly in the power of public education. I am proud to have dedicated my life's endeavors to supporting and educating children and I am confident that I have helped to make a positive impact in our community.

Serving as Principal of The Widener Memorial School has been a true honor and pleasure. This is a bittersweet moment for me because of all the accomplishments and challenges we have overcome together. I will truly cherish all of the positive relationships I have built with our students, staff, parents, and partners. Over the past eight years, our school has come a long way. We have successfully navigated through the pandemic, built a solid interactive transition program for our 18-22 year old students, increased partnerships and developed functional programs for our students that are data driven and rigorous.

All of these accomplishments are a result of our entire Widener Memorial School Community working together and supporting each other!

Between now and November, I am committed to ensuring a smooth transition of school leadership. Our Assistant Superintendent, Mr. Richard Gordon, will be working with a team of staff, students, parents, and partners to help select the next leader of Widener Memorial School to continue the great work we are doing.

Thank you for your continued partnership as we support our amazing students.

Sincerely,

Harris R. Gaffin

Principal