

# NEWS RELEASE



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## **Three Newly Redesigned CPS Elementary Schools Welcomed Students Back Early**

After undergoing an extensive redesign, three Cincinnati Public Schools welcomed back students on August 4, 2009 – two weeks ahead of the rest of the district – to give students a head start on academic success. Mt. Airy School in Mt. Airy, Rothenberg Preparatory Academy in Over-the-Rhine and South Avondale School in Avondale reopened with new staff, a new curriculum and a host of new enrichment programs designed to make learning fun.

**Superintendent Mary Ronan visited Rothenberg at 9:00 a.m. on August 4, 2009, to help welcome back students. Rothenberg is located at 2120 Vine Street in Over-the-Rhine.**

The three redesign schools were among the lowest performing elementary schools in the district and had fallen short of reaching standards for Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) under the federal No Child Left Behind Act for five years or longer. The first step in the redesign was to replace staffs at each school. If staff members wanted to remain, they had to reapply for their positions.

The new faculties received significant training in “turnaround school” strategies designed to raise student achievement and improve school culture. Students will benefit from more individualized attention, as teachers collaborate in teams to ensure that each child is progressing appropriately in each subject. All three schools now offer foreign language programs, as well as art, music, physical education and technology classes at all grade levels. Full-time librarians have been added to keep students engaged in reading, and each school has added a variety of enrichment programs that will help bring academic concepts to life.

### **About Cincinnati Public Schools**

Cincinnati Public Schools (CPS) – a district of 58 schools serving a diverse population of more than 34,000 students in grades preschool to 12 – prepares students for life through rigorous academic programs, numerous enrichment opportunities and strong community partnerships. The district has maintained the Continuous Improvement ranking, the third-highest available, from the Ohio Department of Education for the last four years. In addition, its graduation rate has increased from just over 60 percent to 82 percent since 2002. Three of its high schools – Walnut Hills High School, Withrow University High School and Clark Montessori High School – are ranked among the top 1,000 public high schools in the United States according to national magazines. CPS is in year six of a \$1-billion Facilities Master Plan to renovate or build new facilities for the entire district. Visit Cincinnati Public Schools online at [www.cps-k12.org](http://www.cps-k12.org).



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