



News

from the MNPS Public Information Office

Metropolitan Nashville Public Schools

Media Inquiries: 615/259-8405

Contact: Olivia Brown
Noelle Mashburn

MNPS prepares to open new Diploma Plus High School

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (June 19, 2009) – Metro Nashville Public Schools will open the district's first Diploma Plus High School (DPHS) this fall. The school, designed for students at risk of dropping out of traditional high school, will serve 120-180 students in the 9th and 10th grades. It will be under the direction of Lead Administrator Jill Bates who currently manages the district's Language! program, and will be housed at the former Martha Vaught building.

DPHS will provide an alternative learning opportunity for students who are over-aged for their grade level and behind on the credits they need to graduate. It will serve each child's individual needs, while instilling a renewed sense of hope in each child that he or she can and will earn a high school diploma.

"The Diploma Plus High School is a wonderful opportunity for our community," said Bates. "This program will reach out to a select group of students who, for a variety of reasons, do not thrive in a traditional high school setting."

Diploma Plus schools are based on an alternative/small school model. They serve youth who have not experienced success in high school -- those who may have dropped out and want to re-enter school or those who may still be enrolled and underachieving. Diploma Plus improves the academic rigor for its students while also aiding in the transition to post-secondary opportunities.

DPHS graduates will receive a regular high school diploma. They will also gain strong academic and life skills, valuable work experience, and college credits that can be applied to a future college degree. For more information about MNPS Diploma Plus High School, contact the Customer Service Center at 615-259-INFO (4636).

About Jill Bates

Jill Bates has worked for MNPS since 2003, as a teacher and Language Arts Mentor Specialist. Prior to her work in Nashville, Bates spent four years teaching in various schools in Missouri. Subjects taught include Pre-K, special education and life skills. Bates holds a Bachelor of Religious Education Degree from Andersonville Theological Seminary, Bachelor of Science Degrees in Elementary Education and Special Education from Missouri Baptist University, and a Master of Arts Degree in Education from Cumberland University.

Metro Nashville Public Schools provide a range of educational opportunities to more than 75,000 students in Nashville and Davidson County. The governing body for MNPS is the Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County Board of Public Education, a nine-member group elected by residents of Metropolitan Nashville. For more information, please visit www.mnps.org.

###