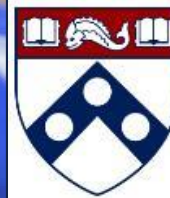




University-Assisted Community School: Andrew Hamilton K-8 School

2024 National
Community School &
Family Engagement
Conference



Netter Center
for Community Partnerships
UNIVERSITY of PENNSYLVANIA



THE NETTER CENTER FOR COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIPS

Founded in 1992, the Netter Center develops and helps implement democratic, mutually transformative, place-based partnerships between Penn and West Philadelphia that advance research, teaching, learning, practice, and service and improve the quality of life on campus and in the community.

- Academically Based Community Service (ABCS)
- University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS)
- ABCS & UACS as core to a comprehensive Democratic Anchor Institution approach

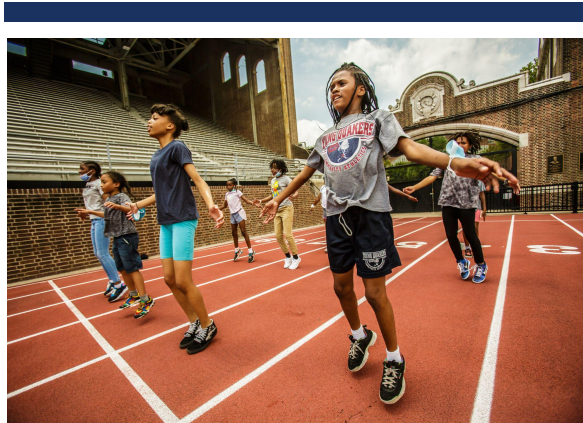
These strategies are shared across the country and around the world, serving as a model for democratic university-community engagement.

THE NETTER TEAM



Netter employs a diverse team in West Philadelphia that includes:

- 50 full-time staff to support its initiatives on campus and in the community (25 FT in UACS)
- Over 3,000 Penn students in Netter programs through academically based community service (e.g., service learning) courses, **federal community service work-study, internships**, and volunteer opportunities.
- Over 125 part-time staff each year, the majority of whom are from West Philadelphia, who work in Netter's grant-funded after school and summer programs at university-assisted community schools.
- Netter Advisory Boards:
 - Community Advisory Board
 - Faculty Advisory Board
 - National Advisory Board
 - Student Advisory Board



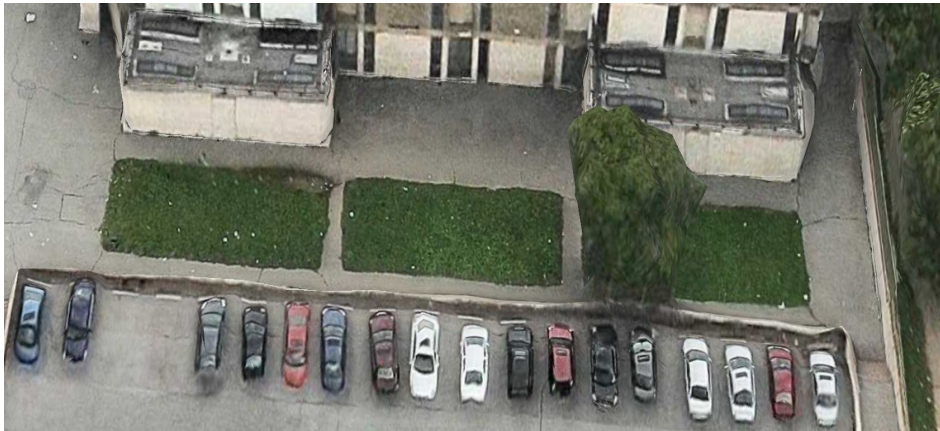
UNIVERSITY-ASSISTED COMMUNITY SCHOOLS (UACS)

- Focus on the school as the core institution for community engagement and mobilization
- School-day, after school, and summer programs, including:
 - Agatston Urban Nutrition Initiative
 - Arts, Culture, and Humanities
 - College Access and Career Readiness
 - Community School Student Partnerships
 - Moelis Access Science and Pipeline
 - Penn Reading Initiative
 - Social, Emotional, and Mental Wellness
 - UACS Nights [*adult programming*]
 - UACS Sports, Fitness & Health
 - Young Quakers Community Athletics

Hamilton School Garden



BEFORE



The UACS Andrew Hamilton School Garden

- Student Teacher Driven Design (2020-2021)
- Created outside learning labs, school gardens and edible forest (2021)
- Students learning by doing—engaged in real-world problem solving
- Ongoing school and community project based learning (PBL) opportunities
- EPA Nat'l Award-Rainworks Initiative
- Penn Office of Sustainability, Penn Educational Innovations Initiative, Philadelphia Orchard Project

GOALS

1. Improved Water Quality
2. Resilience and Adaptation
3. Community Gathering Space
4. Equitable Access to Healthy Produce
5. Environmental Justice
6. Student Engagement
7. STEM Education

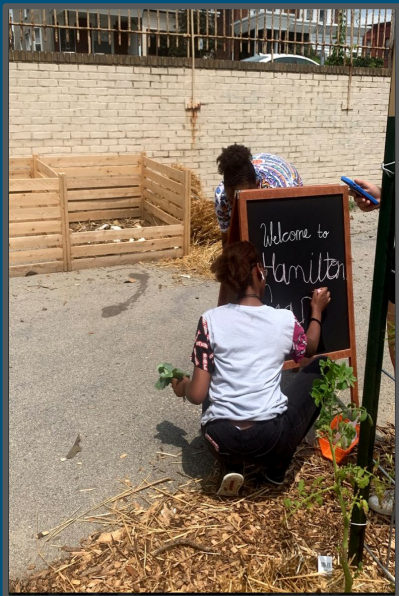
The school had to pay **\$13,000** every year in stormwater fees. After redesigning, the school will save **\$10,560/year**

Total Investment: **\$120,166**
Net Present Value: **\$131,698**
Investment Return: **8.798 %**



Hamilton Garden Engagement

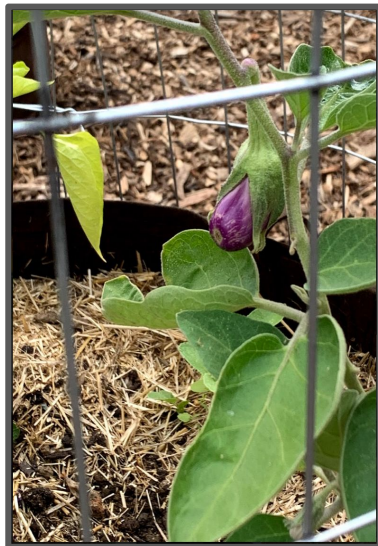
Installing tools with data available for curriculum use: includes data on weather, ambient temperature, surface temperature, humidity, air quality, evapotranspiration, and soil moisture.



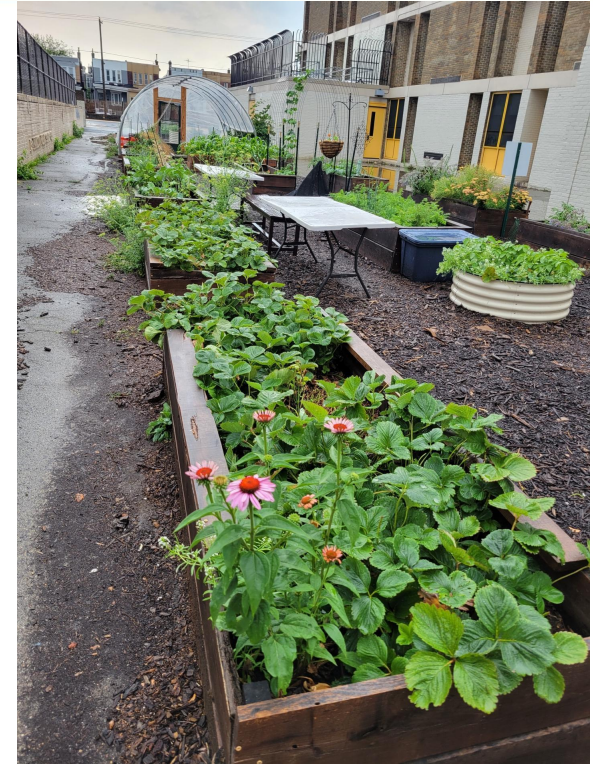
Hamilton Garden-What's growing

Many items selected by the students!!!

sweet pepper, hot pepper, sweet potato, eggplant, watermelon, cherry tomato, chives, cabbage, collards, melon, summer squash, lemon cucumber, strawberries, cowpeas, corn, Nanticoke squash, and beans, Lemon thyme, basil, mint, lavender, and more. We also planted a variety of fruit trees along the perimeter of the school.



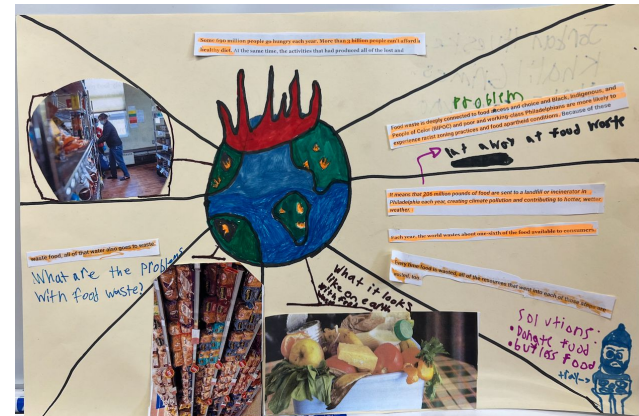
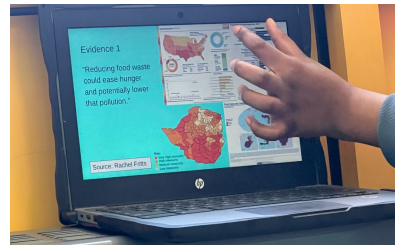
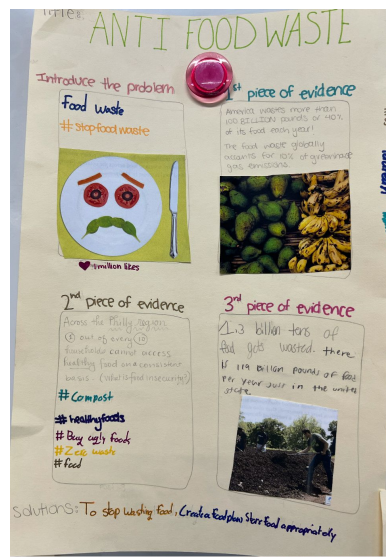
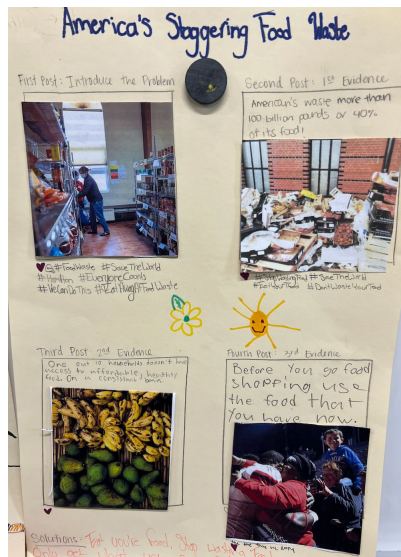
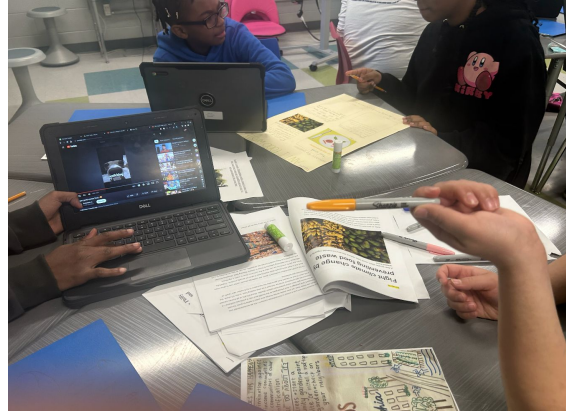
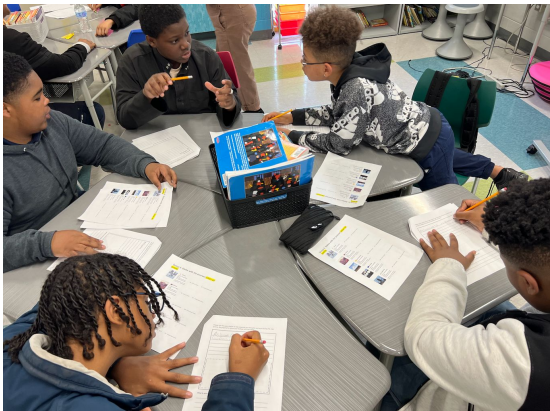
AFTER



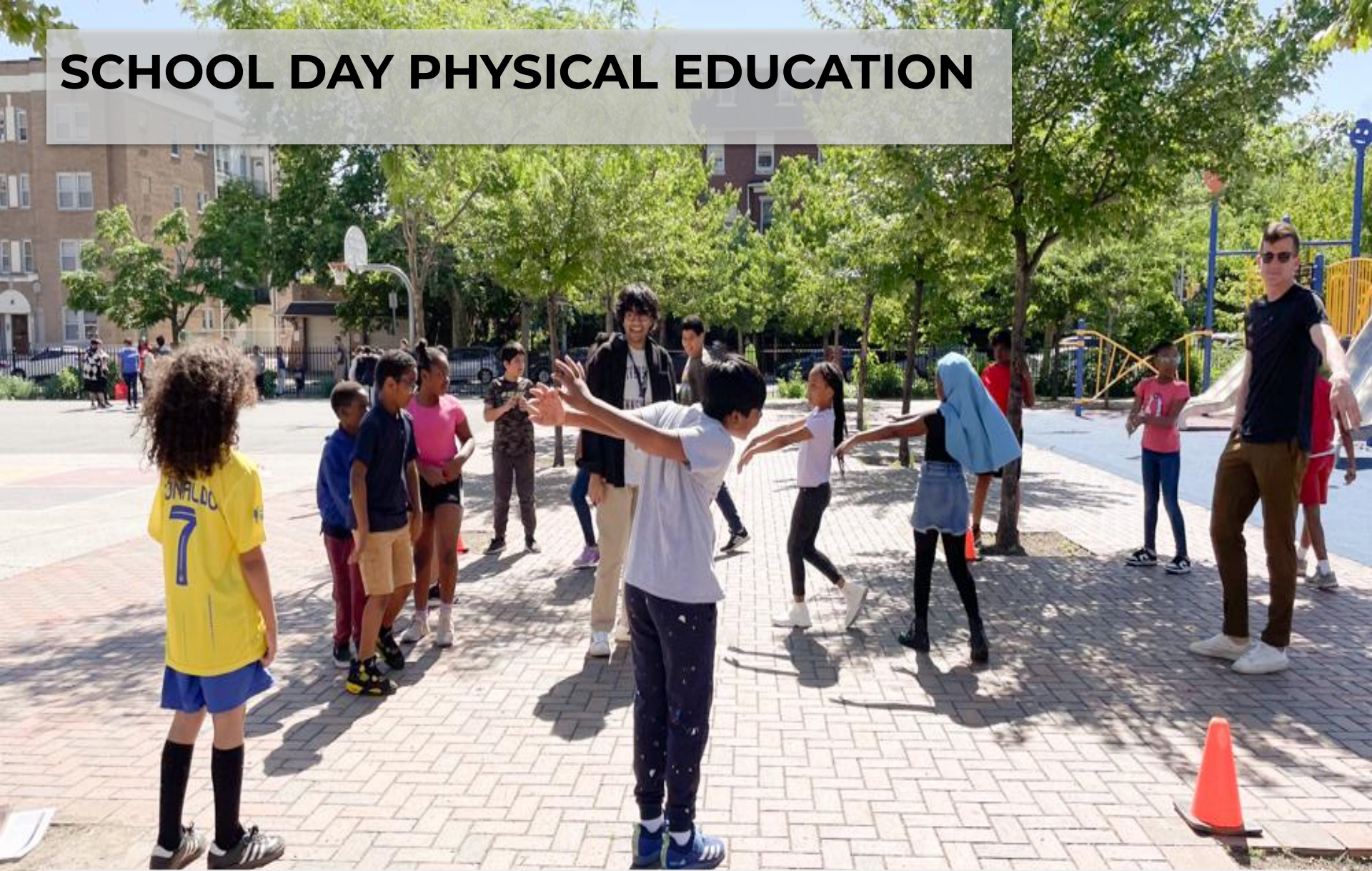
AFTER



Academically Based Community Service (ABCS): Environmental Justice

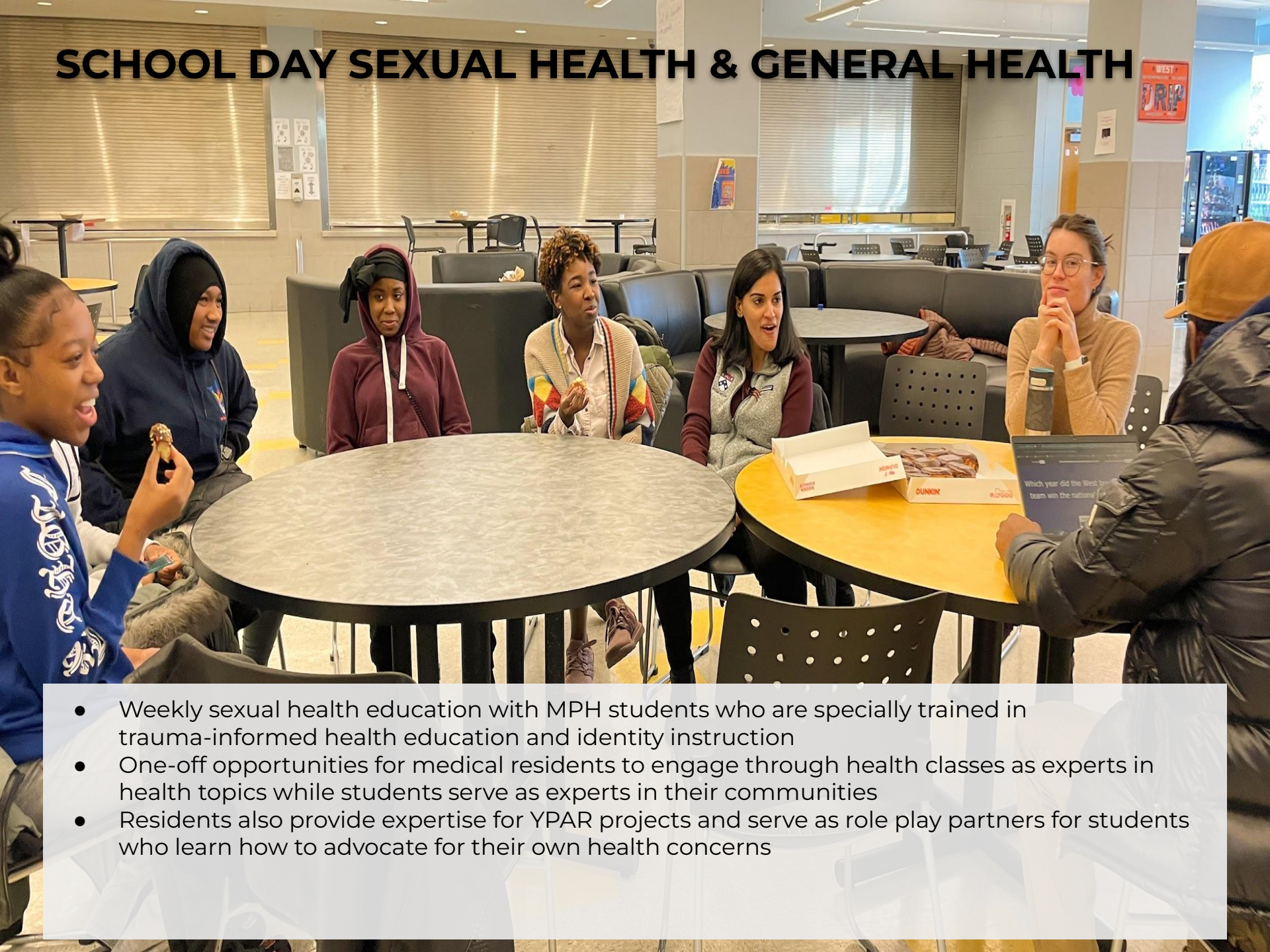


SCHOOL DAY PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Penn students, many of them from the School of Nursing ABCS class Obesity & Society, provide curricular and environmental support in Physical Education classes every week. Students also provide support for Field Days at each UACS K-8 school each semester.

SCHOOL DAY SEXUAL HEALTH & GENERAL HEALTH



- Weekly sexual health education with MPH students who are specially trained in trauma-informed health education and identity instruction
- One-off opportunities for medical residents to engage through health classes as experts in health topics while students serve as experts in their communities
- Residents also provide expertise for YPAR projects and serve as role play partners for students who learn how to advocate for their own health concerns

SCHOOL DAY RECESS

- Recess is a uniquely accessible way to provide sport-specific exposure
- Programs provide high-intensity cardiovascular engagement, are genuinely useful to school partners, and help students with emotional regulation
- Programs must be carefully tailored to be successful
- Penn students view participation in recess as a reward for continued engagement with Sports, Fitness & Health programming
- Sports at recess can help build school-based afterschool programs
- Recess is FUN!



School-based Mental Health Partnerships



**All Penn Schools
and Programs**



**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP
of Philadelphia**
Together we can end the cycle of violence.



Student Activities

- SEL, PBIS, UACS after-school
- Teen MHFA
- Peer support groups
- Individual counseling

Family Activities

- Resource connection support
- Family workshops

Staff Activities

- Stress Less Initiative
- Professional development (Youth MHFA)

Site-based teams:
UACS Site
Director School
Counselor School
leadership

Penn Vet Partnership





QUESTIONS ?

Reach out anytime: nettercenter@upenn.edu

