

Roles of UACS Program Coordinators

(the secret sauce)

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**University-Assisted Community Schools National Network Convening
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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.

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
 - Anti-Violence and Cultures of Peace
 - Arts, Culture, and Humanities
 - College Access, Career Readiness, Youth Workforce Development
 - Community School Student Partnerships
 - Moelis Access Science and Health Sciences Educational Pipeline
 - Penn Reading Initiative
 - Social, Emotional, and Mental Wellness
 - UACS Nights [*adult programming*]
 - UACS Sports, Fitness & Health
 - Young Quakers Community Athletics



SPORTS, FITNESS & HEALTH OVERVIEW

WHO

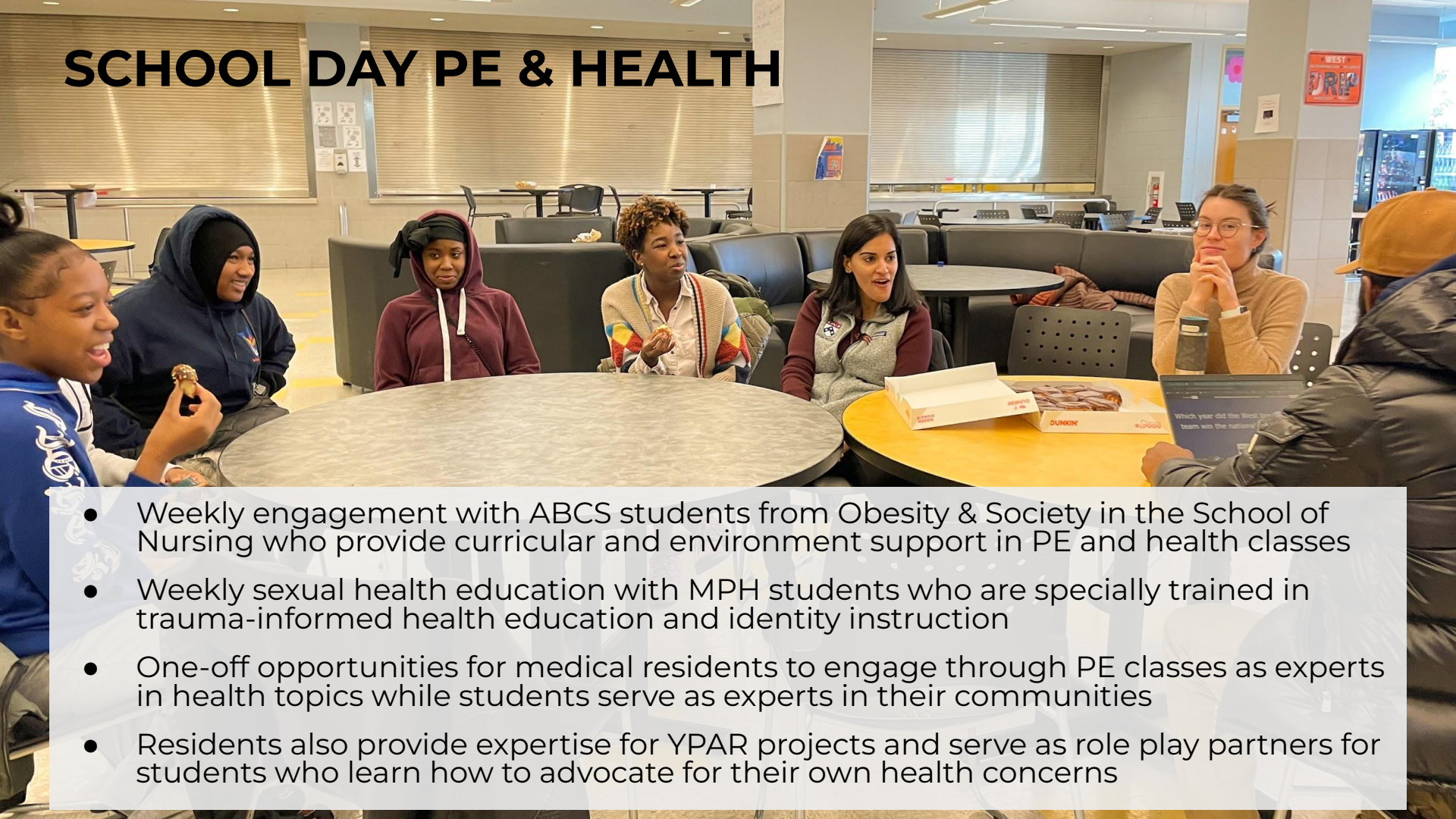
- One full-time director
- Two full-time coordinators
- One part-time coach shared with Penn Athletics
- Forty-eight Penn students (this semester)
- Three PE teachers
- Center for Public Health Initiatives
- Six varsity athletic teams

WHAT

- School-day PE and health
- School-day recess
- Wellness councils
- Afterschool sports
 - PWBL
 - Young Quakers
 - Community Athletics
- Cross-grade sports

HOW SFH utilizes partnerships across the university to create mutually beneficial relationships and health-focused learning.

SCHOOL DAY PE & HEALTH



- Weekly engagement with ABCS students from Obesity & Society in the School of Nursing who provide curricular and environment support in PE and health classes
- 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 PE 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!





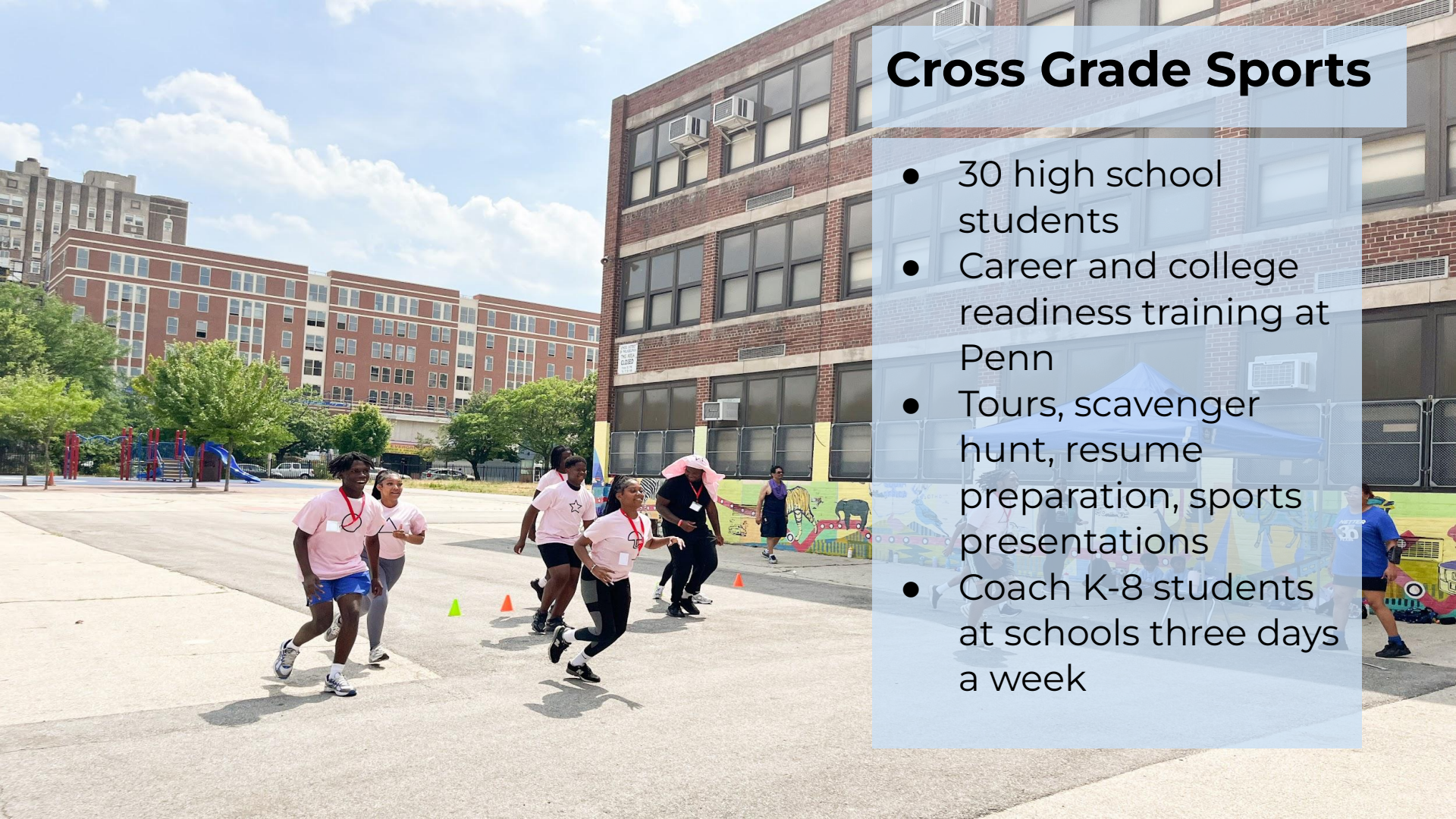
Penn West Philly Basketball League (PWBL)

PWBL offers weekly practice and game days for middle school and high school students. Penn students serve as coaches.

- Practice before school reduces tardiness
- Culminating games on the Penn campus at the Palestra
- 60 middle school students on four teams, coached by 12 Penn students
- About 30 high school students on four teams, coached by two Penn students
- High school league led by Penn Police officer through a partnership between Penn Public Safety and the Netter Center

Cross Grade Sports

- 30 high school students
- Career and college readiness training at Penn
- Tours, scavenger hunt, resume preparation, sports presentations
- Coach K-8 students at schools three days a week



YOUNG QUAKERS OVERVIEW



- 258 Young Quakers & 163 Big Quakers in the program
- Brings 4th- through 8th- grade West Philadelphia students at University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) to Penn for athletics, mentorship, and fun
- Partners with Track & Field, Penn Men's and Women's Lacrosse, and Men's and Women's Basketball teams
- Creates mutually beneficial, transformative experiences for Penn athletes and UACS students
- Emphasizes sports-based youth development with a focus on trauma-informed sports practice
- Uses "Team Time" for continuous self- and team-reflection

YOUTH-DRIVEN ANTI-VIOLENCE PROGRAM (YAVP)

WHO

- One full-time director
- One Emerson Fellow
- One part-time instructor
- Five Penn students (this semester)
- 3 Teacher partners/1 Social Worker
- RP@P, PVP, Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia, Collective Climb, Women Against Abuse, and more...

WHAT

- School-day Anti-Violence Program in partnership with the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia
- Afterschool YAVP & Cross-Grade Programming
- Youth & Teen Mental Health First Aid
- OurSpace (LGBTQ+ Supports) + ABCS Collaboration
- UACS Nights (Community Basketball)

HOW YAVP utilizes partnerships across the university and community to drive student leadership in cultivating cultures of anti-violence, safety and peace

GOALS

- Reduce youth violence for West Philadelphia students in all University-Assisted Community Schools (UACS) and their neighborhoods by expanding Netter's youth-driven anti-violence initiative that cultivates and supports a culture of anti-violence, safety, and peace
- Collaboratively solve problems of youth and community violence WITH the voices and actions of youth
- Create cultures of anti-violence and peace
- Help youth develop attitudes and skills that will create cultures of anti-violence, safety, and peace that will reduce violence in their schools and communities
- Further mobilize and connect a comprehensive array of partners and help aggregate and integrate their efforts into specific University-Assisted Community Schools to achieve greater impact

ACTIVITIES

- School day Anti-Violence Program, in collaboration with the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (CR Curriculum)
- Afterschool Programming
 - Skill Development (Conflict Resolution, Peer Mediation, Restorative Practices, Bystander Intervention)
 - Other Learning
 - Healthy Relationships
 - Consent/Boundaries
 - Leadership Development
 - Identity/Self-awareness/Self Care
 - Mental Health & Wellness
 - Online Safety and Awareness
 - Relationship/Community Building
 - Projects/Activities
 - Youth-led Panels
 - Cross-Grade Safe Space
 - Safe Space Project



Program Experience

Respondents' key takeaways were closely related to Anti-Violence Workshops' themes of learning about Empathy Sympathy Compassion, Conflict Resolution, Healthy Relationships, and Anti-Bullying.

What was the most valuable thing you learned from the Anti-Violence Workshops? (N = 46)

Category	Examples
Managing Feelings (n=4)	“(…) empathy, sympathy and compassion because I relate to it the most” “I learned to manage my feelings wisely”
Practical Application (n=4)	“(…) I can use everything they taught me” “I learn more about (…) my mental health”
Conflict Resolution (n=10)	“(…) conflict and how to solve problems without any violence” “To talk it out first because the other person may not feel that way” “Don't use violence for everything”
Anti-bullying (n=4)	“Not to bully people” “To never bully others, always be yourself, solve any problem you have”
Relationship Management (n=2)	“Maintaining healthy relationships” “I learned about healthy relationships”
Peer Influence (n=1)	“I want to say about peer pressure”
Others/N.A. (n=21)	“Be nice”



Questions? Please reach out...

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