



# THE SCHOOL DISTRICT OF PHILADELPHIA

*Ted Domers, Ed.D.*  
*Assistant Superintendent, Learning Network 1*

*440 North Broad Street, Philadelphia PA 19130*

*215-400-6438*  
[tdomers@philasd.org](mailto:tdomers@philasd.org)

April 20, 2022

Dear Central High School Community:

It is with great excitement that I announce Katharine Davis as the 15th President of Central High School, effective July 1, 2022. Ms. Davis is currently the principal of Charles W. Henry School, where she has served for the past three years. Ms. Davis is a product of the School District of Philadelphia. She attended Henry, then matriculated to Central. After rejoining her elementary school, Ms. Davis is now thrilled to return to her high school. She is a proud member of the 264th graduating class at Central High School.

History in the making, Ms. Davis is the first woman and first person of color to lead the school since its inception in 1836. She is also the sixth graduate to return to the school as President.

Ms. Davis brings a range of experiences to prepare her for a successful transition at Central. Upon graduating Central, Ms. Davis attended Cornell University where she studied Animal Science and Education. She found her passion in teaching and started her career as an elementary teacher and then assistant principal in the New York City school system. Ms. Davis returned home to Philadelphia as part of the PhillyPLUS program for further leadership development with a fellowship at Cayuga Elementary. After an appointment as the co-principal at Harding Middle School, Ms. Davis rejoined the Henry community. At Henry, Ms. Davis has led academic gains, diversified the school faculty, garnered grants for arts and school facilities, and maintained open communication with a range of stakeholders. Ms. Kim Newman, her Assistant Superintendent, describes her leadership as “student-centered and collaborative.”

Ms. Davis impressed the President Advisory Committee throughout all phases of our search. Our rigorous process began with community outreach to create a leadership profile that represented all stakeholder groups. Our diverse committee, composed of faculty, students, administration, parents, and alumni, collaborated to consider all candidates and create the interview protocols. Following her interviews, the committee highlighted her ability to lead in diverse settings, create personal connections, and ensure on-going communication. One committee member commented, “equity and inclusion shone through in every response.” We were committed to finding the best candidate to lead Central High School, and the committee fully supported recommending Ms. Davis. Ms. Davis also met with Chief of Schools Evelyn Nunez, Ed.D., Chief of Talent Larisa Shambaugh, and Superintendent William R. Hite, Ed.D, who all enthusiastically supported Ms. Davis to become the next President at Central High School.

Ms. Davis is a strategic, poised and reflective leader. She is passionate about social justice and improving educational outcomes for all of Central’s students. Ms. Davis believes that “young

people have the answers.” Ms. Davis is a talented and effective leader, who will continue to ensure Central’s legacy of excellence and promote the school’s mission of developing students as “thoughtful leaders of their generation.”

I want to extend my deep appreciation to the members of the selection committee for their commitment and care for this process. In the coming weeks, we will share more information about Ms. Davis’s transition to Central and introductory events to allow members of the Central community to meet with her. For now, please join me in welcoming Ms. Davis to the Central community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ted M. Domers". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "T" and "D".

Ted M. Domers, Ed.D.  
Assistant Superintendent