



40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION of  
UNIVERSITY CITY HIGH SCHOOL  
1971-72 + 2011-12

## Science High School Set for 36<sup>th</sup> and Filbert Sts.

Author: John T. Gillespie

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Plans for a multimillion dollar high school in West Philadelphia were announced yesterday by the Board of Education.

The University City High School, specializing in science and mathematics, is to occupy a 14-acre tract from 36<sup>th</sup> to 38<sup>th</sup> sts. bounded by Filbert st. on the south and Warren st. on the north, in the Powelton area.

The new structure is expected to cost \$9.5 million and is scheduled to open in September, 1970.

It will serve 3,000 boys and girls, 75 percent of them from West Philadelphia. The remaining 25 percent will be drawn from all over the city by the special science and math programs.

### **76 Classrooms**

School officials call the new school both “comprehensive” because of its wide course offerings, and “magnet” because of the special science program, designed to attract students from all areas.

The three-story building will contain 76 classrooms, 46 laboratories, including 15 science and 10 commercial labs; a planetarium; pool; 1,300-seat auditorium; bookstore, communications center, computer room and orchestra hall.

One percent of the planned cost has been allocated for programs and facilities in the arts.

Other facilities will include tennis courts, parking lots, and extensive playing fields.

Officials consider the school Philadelphia’s counterpart to the Bronx High School of Science in New York City. Graduates of that school receive about seven out of every 1,000 science doctorates awarded in the country annually.

## **Part of University City**

At one time it was thought the school should deal exclusively in science and mathematics. Opponents of this idea argued that the school would end up catering to white students.

The school will be a part of University City, a 2,000-acre tract of land in West [sic] Philadelphia, service by six elementary schools and the West Philadelphia High School.

The West Philadelphia High School, 47<sup>th</sup> and Walnut sts., will become a middle school (grades 5 through 8) after the new school is completed.

Another advantage of the new school will be its proximity to University City Science Center, 34<sup>th</sup> and Market sts. The Center will furnish special staff and research assistance in the science programs.

The school will also be near the University of Pennsylvania, Drexel Institute of Technology, and the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science. These three institutions, as part of University City, provide assistance to all schools in the area.

The school became the subject of controversy [sic] after plans were announced in June, 1966. Residents feared they would be displaced and housing renewal in the area shortchanged.

The school board compromised, trimming 2.2 acres from the original 16-acre site.

# For 36th and Filbert Sts.

OCT 24 1967 J

By JOHN T. GILLESPIE  
Of The Bulletin Staff

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