



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

# University City High to Open with 900 Pupils

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The first new public high school in Philadelphia in nine years will open Monday at 36<sup>th</sup> and Filbert sts. when some 900 pupils in grades nine and ten enter the \$14-million West Philadelphia University City High School.

About 500 more pupils will join the school after the Christmas holidays. The school is expected to reach its capacity of 3,000 students during the 1972-73 academic year.

The last public high school to open here was George Washington, at Bustleton ave. and Verree road in the Northeast.

“University City” is a magnet school for science and math, drawing 25 percent of its population from all areas of the city.

It was partially funded by the Federal Government under the ES '70 program (Education Systems for the 1970s).

Each of the 18 ES '70 schools across the country emphasized flexible scheduling of classes and places the primary responsibility for learning on the student.

University City will have no bell system. Students may be able to spend an entire school day on a single project. Individual scheduling can change from week to week.

The new school, to be headed by Davis Martin, formerly vice principal at John Bartram High School, will contain 53 general classrooms and 46 laboratories, including science, commerce, home arts, technology, art, journalism and reading.

In addition, the school will have a gymnasium, cafeteria and auditorium – each with a seating capacity of 1,500 – as well as an instructional materials center (library), swimming pool and planetarium.

The school will be separated into four “houses” of 750 students each. to prevent the feeling of being “lost” that comes to many pupils in large, comprehensive high schools.

All pupils will take course in shop, physical education and foreign languages in addition to English, mathematics, social studies and science courses required by the state.

Beyond the requirements the student is allowed to design his own schedule and to change if [sic] from week to week according to the activities planned by the teachers.

The school will not be divided into the standard grades nine through 12. Instead, students will be given a certain amount of work to be completed by the end of the school year. If the work is not completed, a student can pick up in September where he left off in June.

