



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

# University City High School Begins Classes

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A new senior high school, where students will be permitted to make up their own rosters and schedules opened today at 36<sup>th</sup> and Filbert sts.

It is called the West Philadelphia University City High School and will serve as a “magnet school” for students from all over the city with special interests in science and mathematics.

The five-story brick school, erected at a cost of \$14 million, will have no set periods. No bells will be rung to summon students to classes.

About 900 pupils streamed into the building and went on an inspection tour of the classrooms before settling down to business. They were 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> graders.

Next September the school will be opened to 11<sup>th</sup> graders and the following September to 12<sup>th</sup> graders, so that at the end of two years the school will have a complement of some 3,000 pupils.

Davis B. Martin, the principal, was busy shaking hands with everyone who came his way. He was enthusiastic over the school’s adaptability to special programs.

Martin told the students at the first assembly this morning about their freedom of choice.

“There is a great deal of freedom,” he said, “so remember that with freedom there is responsibility.”

He said he would place much of the responsibility for patrolling the building on the students.”

Later he told reporters that the most important thing about the school for the students is “a feeling of belonging – a feeling that somebody cares.”

One of the pupils, Patricia D. Lee, 15, of 5418 Pentridge st., said:

“The new building is a whole new experience. They have better materials here and we’re going to learn more because we want to.”

Vanessa Jones, 15, of 5420 Catharine st., said she thinks the school has “more good teachers than most schools do.”

Another student, Daris Davis, 15, of 6160 Catharine st., remarked: “Because of the freedom of the system, nobody is cutting classes.”

The school has operated at three intrim [sic] locations while the new building was being constructed. They were at 43d and Ogden sts., 33d st. and Powelton ave., and 35<sup>th</sup> st. and Fairmount ave.

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By WILLIAM T. KENNEDY  
Of The Bulletin Staff

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