

Contact: Kevin Geary
Mobile: (610) 755-7057
Mail: kevindgeary@gmail.com

For Immediate Release
Thursday, May 9 2019 E-

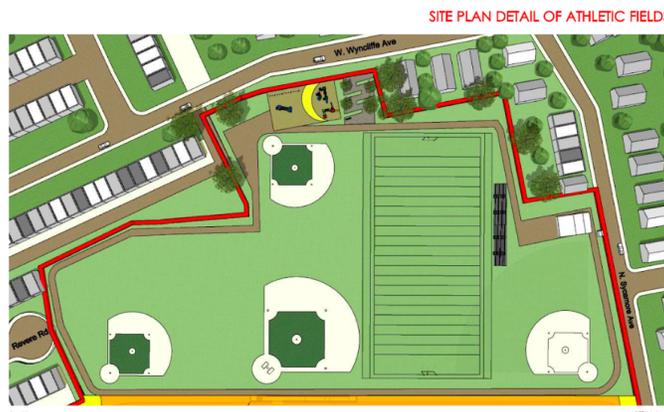
UPPER DARBY SCHOOL DISTRICT VOWS TO PROTECT CLIFTON HEIGHTS YOUTH SPORTS PROGRAMS AND EASE SCHOOL OVERCROWDING

District plans are to modernize the Clifton Heights athletic fields and correct misinformation.

Upper Darby, PA – This week the Upper Darby School District moved forward with its plan to renovate sports fields and build a new, modern Middle School at Clifton Heights. At the May 6 Emergency School Board meeting, the Upper Darby School Board expressed its commitment to improve fields at the District owned Clifton Field for the use of public school students while also continuing the community uses of the property.

“After a meeting in the fall with Clifton Heights Leadership, the District has followed-up with subsequent letters to the Mayor and Borough Council asking for more opportunities to work together. All of the requests to meet and work together have been rejected, and Clifton Heights has made it clear that they are 100% opposed to the Upper Darby School District’s plan on delivering a new, modern learning environment with improved athletic fields to the community. The Upper Darby School District will continue to remain focused on easing overcrowding in all of our schools while protecting the youth sports programs of Clifton Heights,” said Upper Darby Superintendent Dan McGarry.

“A new middle school in Clifton Heights will be a modern learning environment and enhance the Clifton sports program with new fields and a new gym. The same fields some claim we are trying to destroy,” said Rachel Mitchell, President of the Upper Darby School Board. “The Clifton Heights PAL and Boys Club will have beautiful new spaces to hold community and sports events.”



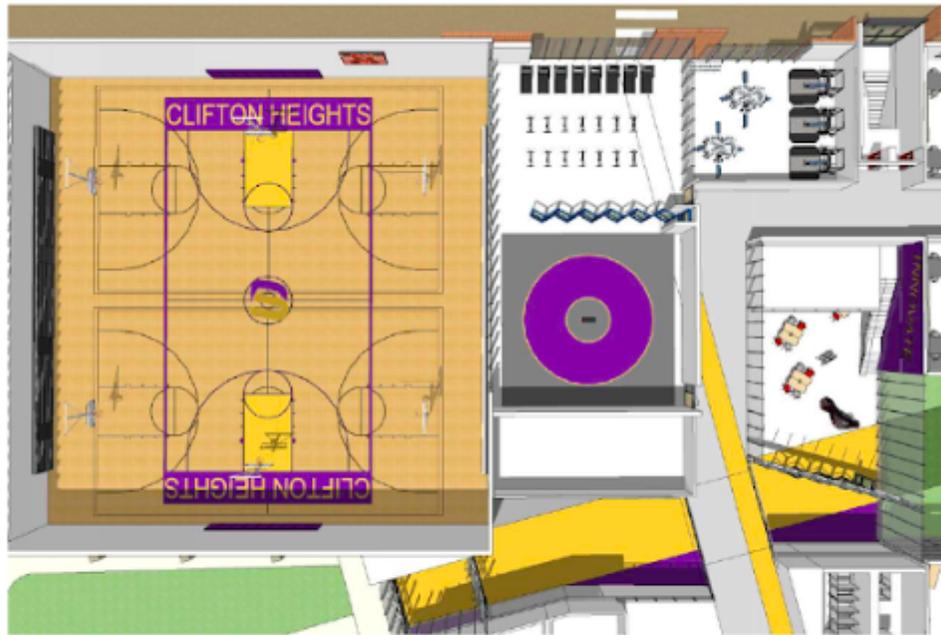
VIEW OF BASEBALL FIELDS, PRACTICE FIELD, AND PLAYGROUND



RENDERINGS OF ENTRY



Front of the Middle School with a special section in the foyer dedicated to the history of Clifton Heights.



Left: Plan Detail of Gymnasium - Crosscourts Setup
Top Right: Plan Detail of Gymnasium - Game Setup
Bottom Right: Plan Detail of Gymnasium - Graduation Setup

A brand new multi-purpose state of the art gymnasium

The Upper Darby School District has pledged the following:

1. The Board seeks to build a school building and place improved fields at the Clifton Field for the use of public school students while also continuing the community uses of the property.
2. The Board has determined that the use of the Clifton Field by the District for this purpose is both necessary and appropriate.
3. The Board will sign MOUs with the Clifton Heights PAL, Clifton Heights Boys Club and Clifton Heights Borough to ensure their continued use of fields.
4. The Board has put in writing their commitment to the community to continue to allow their established traditions of their annual Cow Pie Bingo, 4th of July Fireworks, and community carnival to continue.
5. The Board has directed the administration through our recreation department to gather all of the current permits for the Clifton Field, so that all current use will be given priority going forward.
6. The District has continued to express their desire to meet with the leadership of Clifton Heights and the leadership for the youth sports organizations to review the new middle school plans and gather their input and feedback.

We have heard members of the community ask why we did not meet with the Leadership of Clifton Heights. As a matter of fact, a meeting did take place in the fall with Clifton Heights Leadership and follow-up letters requesting opportunities to meet were sent in October, March, and April. Despite the continued refusal to meet and work together by Clifton Heights Leadership, the District has continued to offer these same opportunities moving forward.

While some are espousing this as an attempt to take away the fields currently used by Clifton Heights Youth Programs, the District has made the focus of the project the completion and improvement of the fields as a priority over the completion of the school in the timeline (51% of the property will consist of athletic fields).

7. For any issues regarding use of fields or field time while the improvements are made, the District has offered Upper Darby High School's football field as a place for the Boys Club to hold weekend competitions. If we need to relocate the football teams of the Boys Club for practice, we are willing to offer other alternatives to support their programs. The District will work with the Clifton PAL and Boys Club throughout this process and moving forward.
8. The new middle school will provide the children of Clifton Heights access to a new gymnasium for basketball, cheerleading, indoor hitting for batting practice, wrestling, etc.
9. In Phase 2, the District intends to build a new elementary school in the 69th street area and continue to improve other District buildings and facilities.
10. We have NO plan or intention of closing Beverly Hills Middle School as some are incorrectly reporting.

Residents, parents and teachers can also learn more on the district's building plans by reading the list of Frequently Asked Questions can also be found on the Upper Darby website at:

<https://www.upperdarbysd.org/cms/lib/PA02209738/Centricity/Domain/4/Frequently%20Asked%20Questions%20about%20the%20Phase%201%20Facility%20Plan%20April%202023.pdf>