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For Immediate Release  
Monday, August 30, 2021

## **Upper Darby School District and Clifton Heights Borough Find Middle Ground on a New Middle School in Clifton Heights**

*Upper Darby School District will build a new middle school and Clifton Heights will regain athletic fields*

**Upper Darby, PA** - The Upper Darby School District and the Borough of Clifton Heights are excited to jointly announce that they have reached a framework agreement that will allow the District to construct its much needed middle school at the Clifton Heights Athletic Field and give the Borough ownership of the school's renovated athletic fields, which it will exclusively control outside of the school's use. This breakthrough is thanks to the willingness by Dr. McGarry, Mayor Lombardo, Dr. Manfre, the Upper Darby Board of School Directors, and Borough Council of Clifton Heights to see beyond past differences to find a middle ground and a solution that benefits everyone.

The construction of a new middle school has been a lynchpin of the multi-stage, multi-year comprehensive facilities improvement plan that is under way throughout the District. The new school will be instrumental in easing overcrowding within the District and will also provide both a neighborhood school to the Borough and surrounding residents and improved athletic fields to the youth programs in Clifton Heights. There will be a press conference discussing the expected path forward for the construction of the new middle school and the new and improved athletic fields on Monday, August 30 at 11:00 a.m. where Upper Darby School District Board President, Edward Brown, Clifton Heights Mayor Joe Lombardo, and Upper Darby School District Superintendent of School, Dr. Daniel McGarry, will speak.

While this middle school is integral to the District's plans to ensure the best education for District students, the Borough's needs for the fields are also understood. "Over the years, these athletic fields and open space have become an integral part of our community and an important part of the quality of life for both individual residents and families," said Joe Lombardo, Mayor of Clifton Heights Borough. The framework agreement will also address community concerns about parking and traffic.

The District has certainly heard from Clifton residents saying that the Clifton Fields are the "heartbeat and soul" of Clifton Heights, and the District hopes that through this

agreement it can reassure the Borough residents that it means to be part of the community there.

Finally, “improving the facilities throughout the District, such as the school we are putting here, is an important part of meeting the social and emotional needs of our students and community. The Upper Darby School District is blessed to have a Board of School Directors focused on bringing the communities we serve closer together by healing old wounds, and for their relentless pursuit of providing the best educational experiences they can to our students in and out of the classroom” said Superintendent McGarry.

**What:           New Middle School and Athletic Fields Clifton Heights**  
**Where:        217 N Springfield Rd, Clifton Heights, PA 19018**  
**When:         Monday, August 30th, 11a.m.**

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