Agenda

Title I/Federal Programs/Parent Involvement Meeting

Monday, October 12, 2026

11:00am-3:00pm and 4:00pm-7:00pm

Introductions

Dr. Dara Ware Allen, CEO

Mrs. Angela Welch, Director of Curriculum

Mrs. Cristine Watson-Smith, Federal Programs Coordinator

Mrs. Amanda Gornic, Reading Specialist

Title I SchoolWide Program Description and Overview

Equity Policy

Title One Support at City High

Reading Specialist Role, Teaching Associates

Active Reading, Vocabulary, Structured Literacy, Read & Write, and Sora

Professional Development and Parent Involvement

Professional Development Plan

Parent/Student/Teacher Compact

LEA Parent Involvement Policy

Opportunities for Parent Involvement

Question and Answer

EQUITY AT CITY HIGH

City Charter High School defines EQUITY as the principle that all students, regardless of their identity or background, deserve high quality, rigorous, and academically challenging educational opportunities that facilitate postsecondary and career success and foster a strong sense of self-efficacy. In practice, this means that all educational opportunities will reflect the diversity of the student population, affirm each student's individual identity, and provide students with an education that is responsive to their lived experiences. City Charter High School acknowledges the inequalities that exist in our society, and commits to the elimination of any institutional barriers that perpetuate inequality or serve to marginalize or exclude students from ethnic, racial, gender, or socio-economic groups that have been traditionally under-represented and under-served. To this end, City Charter High School will employ the full spectrum of resources, services, and supports that maximize all students' opportunity for success.

The goals are to...

WELCOME students to an environment that provides a sense of community, a feeling of belonging, and validation of their identities, with a particular focus on students from marginalized groups

NURTURE students' physical, emotional, cultural, and educational well-being through all programs and services within our institution

UPHOLD the principles and practices of Equity in every aspect of our institution.

Therefore, City Charter High School strives to...

SUPPORT faculty through a Learning Community Model: faculty and staff will be provided with myriad resources, including but not limited to, strategic planning from administration, outside expertise on issues related to Equity, and various forms of professional development and collaboration on Equity-related issues. City Charter High School commits to pursuing additional resources that ensure a holistic understanding, awareness, and sensitivity to the multiple facets of student identity including: race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, religion, gender, sexual orientation, immigration status, and other personal identities that impact school life.

Parent Copy

TITLE ONE PARENT-STUDENT-SCHOOL COMPACT

City Charter High School and the parents of the students participating in activities, services, and programs funded by Title I, Part A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA) (participating children), agree that this compact outlines how the parents, the entire school staff, and the students will share the responsibility for improved student academic achievement and the means by which the school and parents will build and develop a partnership that will help children achieve the State's high standards.

201 Stanwix Street
Suite 100
Pittsburgh, PA 15222
(412) 690-2489
Fax: (412) 690-2316
www.cityhigh.org

School Responsibilities

City Charter High School will:

1. Provide high-quality curriculum and instruction in a supportive and effective learning environment that enables students to meet the state's student academic achievement standards as follows:
   - ✓ Combine relevant curriculums and align them to the State standards.
   - ✓ Provide after school tutoring programs to allow students to receive assistance with regular school work.
   - ✓ Tracking will not be utilized in classes thus exposing all students to high quality curriculum.
   - ✓ Differentiate the instruction in classes ensuring the individual needs of students are met.
   - ✓ Ensure that appropriate instructional techniques are utilized through regular peer and administrator observation of teachers.

2. Hold parent-teacher conferences during which this compact will be discussed as it relates to the individual child's achievement. Specifically, those conferences will be held on Columbus Day in October and Presidents' Day in February as well as on an as needed basis for individual students.

3. Provide parents with frequent reports on their children's progress. Specifically, the school will provide reports as follows:
   - ✓ Trimester Report Cards
   - ✓ Online information that is regularly updated.
   - ✓ Achievement test results as soon as they are available.

4. Provide parents reasonable access to staff. Specifically, staff will be available for consultation with parents as follows:
   - ✓ Appointments can be made with individual teachers, advisors and grade level teams during the daily planning time allotted to teachers and/or before and after school.

5. Provide parents opportunities to volunteer and participate in their child's class, and to observe classroom activities, as follows:
   - ✓ To participate as appropriate in classrooms discussions and presentations.
   - ✓ To observe classes with permission of the school administration.

Parent Responsibilities

We, as parents, will support our children's learning in the following ways:

- ✓ Making sure that all homework is completed.
- ✓ Monitoring amount of television children watch.
- ✓ Volunteering to participate in my child's education.
- ✓ Participating, as appropriate, in decisions relating to my child's education.
- ✓ Promoting positive use of my child's extracurricular time.
- ✓ Staying informed about my child's education and communicating with the school by promptly reading all notices from the school either received by my child or by mail and responding, as appropriate.
- ✓ Serving, to the extent possible, on advisory committees.
- ✓ Adhering to the attendance policy.
- ✓ Reviewing the online parent portal weekly.
- ✓ Keep early dismissals to a minimum and only for emergencies.
- ✓ Participate in scheduled parent conferences.
- ✓ Establish a set time when my child is expected home from school.
- ✓ Insist on appropriate classroom behavior.

Student Responsibilities

We, as students, will share the responsibility to improve our academic achievement and achieve the state's high standards.
As I enter City Charter High School I pledge to do the following:

- ✓ Follow **all** of the rules and policies of the school, **all** of the time.
- ✓ Work diligently to improve all of my skills, increase my knowledge and become proficient on all of the state standards.
- ✓ Turn in **all** homework.
- ✓ Adhere to **all** provisions of the dress code, everyday.
- ✓ Work cooperatively with students and staff.
- ✓ **Respect all** students and staff.
- ✓ Follow the direction of the staff.
- ✓ Bring my ID card everyday.
- ✓ Dress appropriately for physical education.
- ✓ Spend extra time studying for classes that are the hardest for me.
- ✓ Be open minded and willing to listen to the opinions of others, especially when they differ from mine.
- ✓ Support my fellow classmates in their quest for academic excellence.
- ✓ **Value achievement for myself and others.**
- ✓ Take care of my computer and other materials provided by City High.
- ✓ Take care of my school environment.
- ✓ **Be on time to school every morning and to every class every day.**
- ✓ **Attend school everyday unless ill.**

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SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY
2026-2027

PART 1: GENERAL EXPECTATIONS

City Charter High School (CCHS) agrees to implement the following statutory requirements:

- CCHS will put into operation programs, activities and procedures for the involvement of parents in all of its schools with Title I, Part A programs, consistent with section 1118 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA). Those programs, activities and procedures will be planned and operated with meaningful consultation with parents of participating children.

- Consistent with section 1118, CCHS will work to ensure that the required school-level parental involvement policies meet the requirements of section 1118(b) of the ESEA, and each include, as a component, a school-parent compact consistent with section 1118(d) of the ESEA. The compact is signed by the parent, student and school upon the student's entrance into City Charter High School.

- CCHS will incorporate this schoolwide parental involvement policy into its LEA plan developed under section 1112 of the ESEA.

- In carrying out the Title I, Part A parental involvement requirements, to the extent practicable, CCHS will provide full opportunities for the participation of parents with limited English proficiency, parents with disabilities, and parents of migratory children, including providing information and school reports required under section 1111 of the ESEA in an understandable and uniform format and, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language parents understand.

- If the LEA plan for Title I, Part A, developed under section 1112 of the ESEA, is not satisfactory to the parents of participating children, CCHS will submit any parent comments with the plan when the school submits the plan to the State Department of Education.

- CCHS will involve the parents of children served in Title I, Part A schools in decisions about how the 1 percent of Title I, Part A funds reserved for parental involvement is spent.

- CCHS will be governed by the following statutory definition of parental involvement, and will carry out programs, activities and procedures in accordance with this definition:

  Parental involvement means the participation of parents in regular, two-way, and meaningful communication involving student academic learning and other school activities, including ensuring:

  (A) that parents play an integral role in assisting their child's learning;

  (B) that parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's education at school;

  (C) that parents are full partners in their child's education and are included, as appropriate, in decision-making and on advisory committees to assist in the education of their child; and

  (D) the carrying out of other activities, such as those described in section 1118 of the ESEA.

PART II. **DESCRIPTION OF HOW SCHOOL WILL IMPLEMENT REQUIRED SCHOOL WIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. City Charter High School will take the following actions to involve parents in the joint development of its schoolwide parental involvement plan under section 1112 of the ESEA:
   - Parents will be notified of the Spring open meeting through the April mailing.
   - An open meeting will be held in mid-Spring.
   - If less than three parents participate in the meeting, a focus group will be utilized to review the plan.

2. CCHS will take the following actions to involve parents in the process of school review and improvement under section 1116 of the ESEA:
   - Include a parent representative on the school's Board of Trustees.
   - Include parent representatives on the school's strategic planning committee.
   - Include parent representatives on the school's Middle States Accreditation Committee.

3. CCHS will provide the following necessary coordination, technical assistance, and other support to assist Title I, Part A schools in planning and implementing effective parental involvement activities to improve student academic achievement and school performance:

   Because the school and the district are one and the same, the school administrators will provide the technical assistance support when necessary by the Regional Title I staff.

4. CCHS will take the following actions to conduct, with the involvement of parents, an annual evaluation of the content and effectiveness of this parental involvement policy in improving the quality of its Title I, Part A school. The evaluation will include identifying barriers to greater participation by parents in parental involvement activities (with particular attention to parents who are economically disadvantaged, are disabled, have limited English proficiency, have limited literacy, are LGBTQ+, or are of any racial or ethnic minority background). The school will use the findings of the evaluation about its parental involvement policy and activities to design strategies for more effective parental involvement, and to revise, if necessary (and with the involvement of parents), its parental involvement policies.

   City High undergoes an annual evaluation conducted by an outside consultant. Surveys of parents, students, and staff are conducted and will include questions related to parent involvement. In addition, data from parent conferences, including conference evaluations, one-on-one meetings, parent workshops, and other parent activities will be used in order to determine the effectiveness of the parent involvement policy and activities.

PART III. **DISCRETIONARY SCHOOLWIDE PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT POLICY COMPONENTS**

1. CCHS will build the schools' and parents' capacity for strong parental involvement, in order to ensure effective involvement of parents and to support a partnership among the school involved, parents, and the community to improve student academic achievement through the following activities specifically described below:

   - Training on the effective use of Synergy ParentVUE and Google Classroom for parents.
   - Suggestions by the parent representative on the Board of Trustees.
   - May send a parent representative to the annual state Title I conference.

2. The school will provide assistance to parents of children served by the school, as appropriate, in understanding topics such as the following, by undertaking the actions described in this paragraph

- the State's academic content standards;
- the State's student academic achievement standards;
- the State and local academic assessments, including alternate assessments;
- how to monitor their child's progress; and
- how to work with educators.

Workshops and meetings are held annually on the following topics:

- Use of the online parent system to check grades, attendance and discipline;
- Technology use, especially as it applies to student achievement;
- Local, state, and national assessments, the interpretation of data and the use of the results;
- How to prepare students for assessments including ACT and SAT;
- Preparation for the college application process and the completion of the FAFSA;
- The inclusion program for special education students and adaptations to the curriculum and/or evaluations;
- The English as a Second Language program; and
- Various mental health and/or nutrition related topics.

3. The school will provide materials and training to help parents work with their children to improve their children's academic achievement, such as literacy training, and using technology, as appropriate, to foster parental involvement, by:
    - Annual technology updates and information;
    - Informational sessions pertaining to assessments held during parent-teacher conference days;
    - Informational sessions pertaining to post-high school planning.

4. The school will educate its teachers, pupil services personnel, principals, and other staff, in how to reach out to, communicate with, and work with parents as equal partners, in the value and utility of contributions of parents, and in how to implement and coordinate parent programs and build ties between parents and schools, by:
    - Train staff in the use of the online portal for parents, Google Education Suite, email, phone calls, and conferences with parents.

5. The school will take the following actions to ensure that information related to the school and parent-programs, meetings, and other activities is sent to the parents of participating children in an understandable and uniform format, including alternative formats upon request, and, to the extent practicable, in a language the parents can understand:
    - Parents will be asked for feedback on the language used in the documents provided to parents.

PART IV. ADOPTION

This Schoolwide Parental Involvement Policy has been developed jointly with, and agreed on with, parents of children participating in Title I, Part A programs, as evidenced by the meeting held on October 13, 2025.

This policy was adopted by the **City Charter High School Board** on _____ and will be in effect for the period of the **2026-2027 school year**. The school will distribute this policy to all parents of participating Title I, Part A children on or before November 30, 2026.

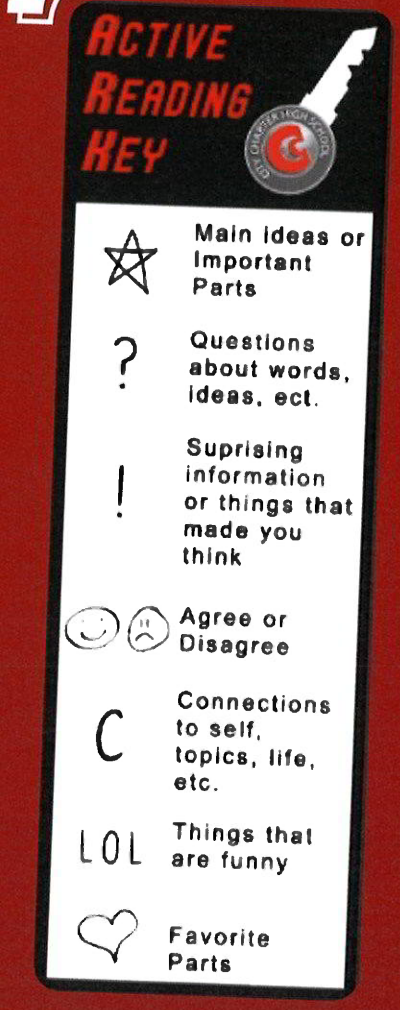
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Dr. Dara Ware Allen
CEO/Principal

City High's

ACTIVE READING ROUTINE

With Active Reading, students can build their word identification, fluency, vocabulary, and text-dependent comprehension skills at the same time.



Activate Prior Knowledge & Set Purpose for Reading 01

Teacher Modeling 02

Shared Reading 03

Independent Practice 04

Revisit Purpose 05

SAVE THE DATE!

March 2027

10

17

18

11

Literacy Night

Fun + free books, activities, and food for our City High community

5-7 PM

More details coming soon.

Test your knowledge with

City High Trivia

Find answers to the following questions and then stop by the **BOARDROOM** to **enter our raffle** and for **Title I** information!

What year was City High founded?

Which class is English and History combined?

What is our unoffical mascot?

What time should students be in the building in the morning?

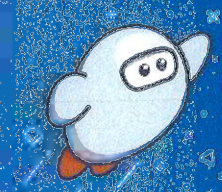
What is the room number of one of the science rooms?

What is an example of "Preparedness" from our Student Achievement goals?

What is the name of your student's grade level principal?

Name one upcoming event at City High.

Getting started with Sora



With Sora, you can get free ebooks and audiobooks from your school.

1

Install the Sora app from the Apple App Store or Google Play Store, or go to soraapp.com.

2

In Sora, find your school (or enter your school's setup code), then sign in.

3

Browse the **Explore** tab and borrow a book. Your book will open so you can start reading right away.

4

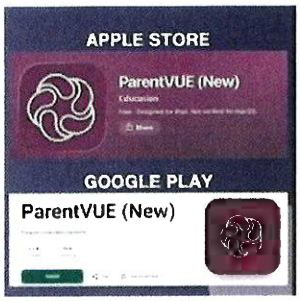
Close the book and go to your **Shelf** to see all your books (including assignments). From there, you can:

- Tap **Open Book** or **Open Audiobook** to read or listen to the book.
- Tap **Options** to renew or return the book, get to your notes and highlights, and more.

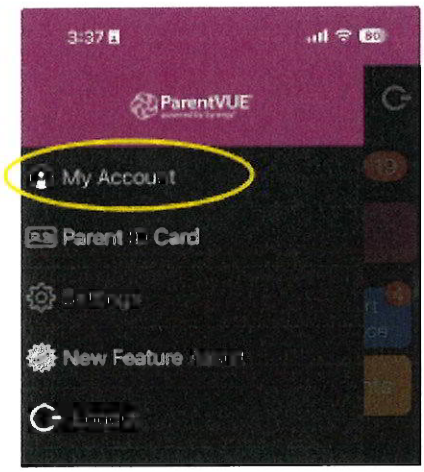
For more help with Sora, visit help.soraapp.com.

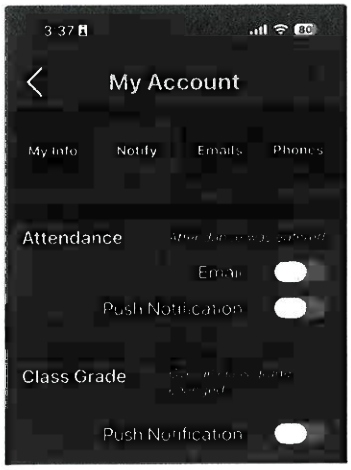
Enrollment & Student Information Office: Updates for Conferences

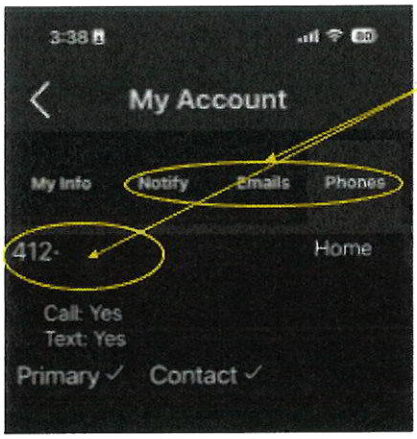
COMMUNICATION HIGHLIGHTS



- **Verify Parent Contact information on Synergy** (address, parent contacts, etc.)
  - **Change of address forms** are available at CityHigh.org/Forms
  - Contact info@cityhigh.org if anything **OTHER THAN ADDRESS** needs to be updated! Parents can also submit a request for phone/email changes at CityHigh.org/studentinfo.
- **DOWNLOAD THE PARENTVUE (NEW) APP!** ParentVUE lets you see attendance, grades, and Report Card!
  - Can easily update phone number and email address
  - If parents have issues logging in, email info@cityhigh.org.







CLICK HERE TO UPDATE PHONE/EMAIL/CONTACT PREFERENCES

- **Weekly Newsletter** gets sent Saturday morning and includes important announcements. Please make sure you check your text/email for alerts.
- **CityHigh.org/For-Parents:** Important Information for Parents
- **Join Facebook Friends and Family**: https://www.facebook.com/groups/440998873976152

ADMISSIONS INFO

SCAN TO APPLY

- **Sibling Applications for parents with 8th graders ARE OPEN!!** Parents can apply online at CityHigh.schoolmint.com or fill out a paper application.
- **TRANSFER INFO FOR JANUARY 2027**: We do have seats available in Grades 9 and 10, so if families know anyone interested in transferring from their current school, please encourage them to apply! They can visit our **Admissions Page** (CityHigh.org/Admissions) for more info or attend the **Open House for Prospective Students** on October 24th. RSVP at: CityHigh.org/Open-House

HELP SUPPORT CITY HIGH RECRUITMENT

Share Your City High Story on Niche!

Your voice matters to families deciding where their student belongs. Take two minutes to leave a parent review on **Niche** and help others see what makes City High special.

How to leave a Niche review:

- ☐ Scan the QR code or visit CityHigh.org/niche
- ☐ Click **Review City Charter High School**
- ☐ Select **Parent**
- ☐ Choose your **star rating**
- ☐ Share **a few sentences** about your experience and why you'd recommend City High
- ☐ Enter your email address to post your review

Share your feedback!

By submitting your review, you grant City Charter High School permission to use your words, along with your first name and your child's grade level, in promotional materials.

Become a City High Parent Ambassador!

Help welcome the next generation of City High families. Parent Ambassadors are trusted peer voices who connect with prospective and incoming families, share the City High experience firsthand, and represent our school at recruitment and community events.

- ★ **Who can apply:** Any parent or guardian with a student currently enrolled at City High.
- ★ **Ready to join?** Scan the QR code to complete the interest questionnaire.
- ★ **Questions?** Contact Michelle Fossum, Director of Enrollment and Strategic Communications | fossum@cityhigh.org | 412-690-2489, x111

Thank you for your continued support of City Charter High School!

CITY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL CLUBS & STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

Activities

- Art Club*
- Chorus
- Dance Committees
- English Festival
- Inked Truths
- Literacy Night
- Poetry Out Loud*
- Robotics*
- Science Fair Club*
- Spring Musical*
- Tech Team

Sports

City High does not have any official sports teams, but students are allowed to play for their "home school" teams if they'd like. The following are athletic options that we do offer:

- After School Fitness*
- Boxing Club*
- Climbing Club
- Home School Athletics*

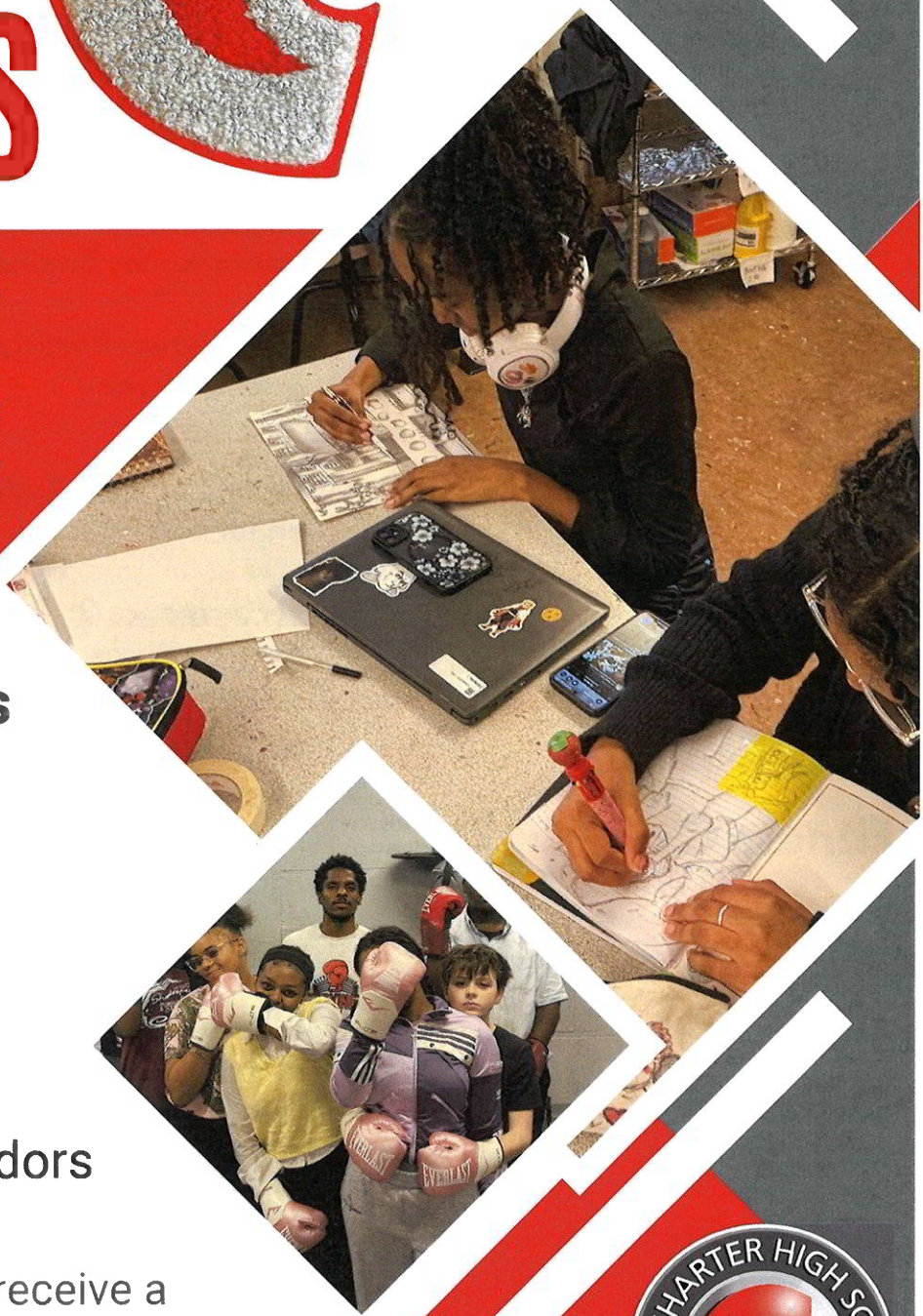
Service Learning & Academic Activities

- Costa Rica Service Learning Trip
- LEAP Program (Leadership, Excellence, Access, Persistence)*
- Student Ambassadors*
- National Honor Society
- Peer Tutoring
- Urban EcoStewards*

*opportunity to earn a letter

CITY HIGH LETTER AWARDS

Students who go above and beyond in certain City High clubs will have an opportunityto earn a letter award.



Clubs Giving Awards

- Art Club
- Boxing Club
- Drama Club
- Fitness Club
- Robotics Club
- Student Ambassadors

All students who letter will receive a free letter patch and pin. Talk to your club sponsor for more information.

CITY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL

CITY HIGH LETTER AWARDS

Club	Grade	Criteria
Art Club	9th -12th Grades	**Performance: Student must complete a portfolio approved by the Art Teacher** **Attendance: Participate in 60 Art Club meetings in a school year**
Boxing Club	9th -12th Grades	**Performance: Complete a skills demonstration approved by Boxing Coach/Sponsors** **Attendance: Participate in 30 Boxing Club sessions in a school year**
Drama Club	9th -12th Grades	**Performance 1: Audition for at least 3 major roles as either cast or crew** **Performance 2: Participate in at least 2 different performances**
Fitness Club	9th -12th Grades	**Performance: Complete a skills demonstration approved by Sponsors** **Attendance: Participate in 60 Fitness Club sessions in a school year**
Robotics Club	9th -12th Grades	**Performance: Set a build goal of at least 3 things to build/contribute to the team** **Attendance: Participate in 80 Robotics Club sessions and at least 2 competitions in a school year**
Student Ambassadors	10th -12th Grades	**Performance: Participate in 8 different events/experiences as a Student Ambassador**

SAVE THE DATE!



Thursday, November 12th, 2026 5:00 - 7:00 p.m.

Join us for music, games, student artwork, and arts and crafts activities for all ages!