



BRYAN ALLEN STEVENSON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

BRYAN ALLEN STEVENSON SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE PREPARES FOR THEIR FALL 2024 OPENING

THE NEW SUSSEX COUNTY CHARTER SCHOOL CONTINUES TO GROW ITS STUDENT BODY

GEORGETOWN, DE (February 20, 2024) – The Bryan Allen Stevenson School of Excellence (BASSE) is excited to continue its path to opening with 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students in the 2024-2025 school year. BASSE is a Georgetown-based free, public charter school focused on service-learning, personalized learning, and high-quality academics opening next fall.

BASSE is building a pathway for leadership within Sussex County that starts with students. Through proximate service-learning experiences and a personalized and rigorous academic curriculum, they seek to cultivate students' commitment to stay engaged and dedicated to Sussex County. Students have already begun to influence key decisions, such as the dress code and uniform policy.

Student voice and choice are important components of BASSE's school model, which plans for students to be essential decision-makers who will have input on topics ranging from the school's mascot to co-designing the various service projects they will take on.

“The students and families who have chosen our school are invested in a school model that places students at the center. Our school will provide flexibility and support for our students to achieve the kind of growth that is necessary for them to become our next leaders,” says school leader Chantalle Ashford.

BASSE is already doing well in this aspect of their school. Over the last eight months, BASSE has held three Youth Leadership Lab events in partnership with the nonprofit UP for Learning and engaged over 30 students in developing their leadership skills. BASSE also has monthly parent meetings on the second Thursday of the month to include parents and caregivers in the growth and development of the school.

Another aspect of leadership development is preparing students to be competitive in the career world. BASSE is addressing this through its focus on blending career and technical education with its service-learning model. The school has an extended school day from 8:30 AM to 4:30 PM, mirroring a more traditional workday, with a flexible, rotating schedule and built-in time for students to hear from community speakers, work on passion projects, and explore multiple career paths while building 21st-century skills.

Though BASSE is committed to providing a different educational experience to its students, the school's leadership team and board understand how important it is to provide the hallmarks of public school education. “At BASSE, we plan to provide students with what they expect from a traditional school, like transportation, breakfast, lunch, and a snack, sports programs, and clubs, but we prioritize our students' wants and needs, allowing them to have a voice in their education and afterschool activities,” says Crystal Timmons-Bryant, the school's operation lead. In addition to providing transportation, food service, and extracurricular activities, including sports, the BASSE team plans to collaborate with their students to plan school events like dances, pep rallies, and graduation.

The school is opening in the former Howard T. Ennis building on the southern side of the Owens campus of Delaware Technical College in Georgetown. Minor construction on the school site will begin in the next several weeks to prepare for the 2024-2025 school year.

The school is still enrolling 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students for the fall. Though opening with middle school grades, BASSE will eventually serve grades six through twelve, with their incoming 8th-grade students becoming their first graduating class.

To learn more about the school or enroll your child, call the school at (302) 448-8343 or visit basseinc.org/charter-school-admissions/.

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BASSE is a 501c(3) public charity. BASSE wants to honor the history of the Sussex County community by building rigorous academic pathways to greatness for students. It provides unique learning experiences where high-performing educators create an environment for students to explore self, community, and the world. BASSE is named in honor of Bryan Stevenson, a prolific social justice activist and lawyer from Milton, Delaware. Mr. Stevenson is the founder and executive director of the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery, Alabama.

“Proximity is a pathway through which we learn the kind of things we need to know to make healthier communities.” – Bryan Allen Stevenson.