



DETROIT PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Dear Parents and Guardians,

I am pleased to announce that Solid Rock Management Company, which currently operates the high-performing Marvin L. Winans Academy of Performing Arts in Detroit, has been chosen as the new operator for Rutherford Elementary, which will become a charter school authorized by Detroit Public Schools.

This change is part of a comprehensive transformation plan aimed at improving academics and creating a more efficient system of high-performing schools for all students. By doing so early, much earlier than has traditionally been the case in Detroit, parents can make plans for enrollment and also seek information about their children's schools.

Solid Rock Management Company, founded by Marvin L. Winans, has managed award-winning schools in Detroit for 15 years. The company currently serves more than 1,100 students in grades K-12 on two campuses. Solid Rock schools have been recognized for their academic excellence by the Skillman Foundation's Good Schools initiative and have produced a Gates Millennium Scholarship recipient, as well as many other full scholarship recipients.

Students from Marvin L. Winans Academy for Performing Arts have won numerous awards across the nation for their participation in Vocal and Orchestral competitions. Winans Academy students have performed at the Vatican in Rome and have gone on to attend colleges and universities across the nation, including Ivy League schools, Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other institutions of higher learning.

In the coming days, you will receive more information about the transformation that is about to take place in your school. **You will have an opportunity to meet representatives of Solid Rock and to learn more about their programs in a special meet-and-greet that will take place at 6 p.m. Thursday March 22, 2012.**

In addition, I invite interested parents and guardians to apply to serve on the board of the new charter school, which will be responsible for ensuring that Solid Rock is effectively serving your children. To learn more, please call the DPS Office of Charter Schools at (313) 873-7927. You may download board application forms here:

detroitk12.org/admin/charter_schools/boards/.

Most importantly, through this transition effort, we are doing everything possible to ensure that all children in Detroit have the opportunity to succeed at the highest levels and direct resources where they are needed most. Together we will create the best system of quality schools of any city in the nation. Please go to detroitk12.org/achievement for more information. We will continue to keep you informed.

You can expect, as I do, that Solid Rock Management will adhere to a high standard of excellence and raise the quality of education for your children.

Sincerely,

Roy Roberts
Emergency Manager