

For Immediate Release

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Parents Attend Open House to Hear New Curriculum Offerings at Stephen Decatur Middle School and Provide Feedback

Decatur, IL – The next major step in receiving community input on plans for implementation of best practices in middle school education was taken Tuesday as parents toured prototypes of options for new educational spaces, learned about the academy concept for curriculum and instruction and provided input to guide implementation of this exciting new program.

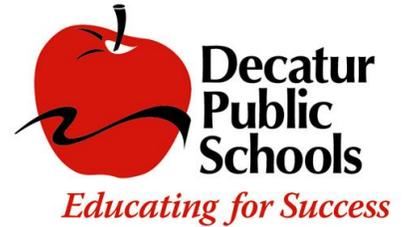
“Earlier this month, middle school students and teachers toured the prototypes and provided extremely valuable input,” commented Matthew Fraas, principal at Stephen Decatur. “Students and teachers were excited to see the changes we are planning for Stephen Decatur. Our plan is to make our school the most exciting and successful middle school in the state of Illinois. And with the input we received from staff and students, and tonight from our parents, I’m confident we are on track to making this happen.”

Tonight, parents first learned about new spaces and programs being offered at Stephen Decatur Middle School next including bringing three academies to the school from which students will select. Following an informational presentation, parents were given the opportunity to tour the prototypes, ask questions about next year and provide input to the overall design of the facility improvements and the new program.

“By the time students graduate from our middle school,” continued Mr. Fraas, “they will not only be ready to perform in a high school at a very high level, they will be equipped with the skills needed to be successful in college, in the workplace, and at home — asking smart questions, working collaboratively with others to solve problems, and being life-long learners regarding the use of technology in their careers and in their homes.”

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During the summer months, Stephen Decatur Middle School will be renovated to accommodate the prototypes and academy concept for middle school instruction. “No matter how good a job we do in renovation and design of educational spaces, “said Sam Johnson a principal at BLDD Architects, “when we get input from students, staff and parents, we can always do the job better. They know their program and their kids, and the input we receive help us design spaces that enhance the overall education program.”

Following input from staff, parents and students, at a later date all Decatur residents will have an opportunity to provide input on this program at forums to be offered sometime in April or early May.

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