

https://www.pressofatlanticcity.com/education/charter-school-finds-new-home-in-egg-harbor-township/article_387ca9b0-71a4-5d7f-aded-1913bcb5905d.html

Charter school finds new home in Egg Harbor Township

CLAIRE LOWE Staff Writer Sep 5, 2017



IACC chief school administrator Dr. Natakie Chestnut (right) greets students and parents during a tour of the facility. The International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School held an opening ceremony, Tuesday Sept 5, 2017, to celebrate the school's new permanent home at the Cardiff Power Center shopping center on the Black Horse Pike in Egg Harbor Township. IAAC currently educates approximately 340 students in Kindergarten through Grade 5, with plans to expand an additional grade level each year until reaching a full K-12 offering. (Dale Gerhard / Press of Atlantic City)

Dale Gerhard / Staff Photographer

EGG HARBOR TOWNSHIP — Parents and community members got a sneak peek Tuesday at the new, permanent location for the International Academy of Atlantic City Charter School, two days before school starts for the year.

“This is a historic moment for our school,” said Chief School Administrator Natakie Chestnut.

[🔗 Atlantic City all-boys charter school moves toward approval](#)

Founder and board President Peter Caporilli said the event was years in the making, but there is much more work to do to turn the facility, which currently serves students from kindergarten through fifth grade, into the K-12 school it hopes to become. Caporilli said he hopes to add a grade level each year. Currently, the school serves about 340 students.

“They now have a computer room. Everything is new, nice classrooms,” said Monica Ahuyon, of Egg Harbor Township, a parent of two students. “I’m so excited.”

A green ribbon stretched across the front doors of the school, located inside a storefront at the Cardiff Power Center on the Black Horse Pike.

Previously located at the former St. Peter’s school in Pleasantville, the school served 254 students in kindergarten through third grade when it opened in 2015.

Chestnut said since the school’s been established, staff has been building a community that extended beyond its “humble beginnings.”

“And this is only phase one,” she said. “My students and my staff deserve much more.”



Our view: NJ should give tiny houses a chance to help the ho...

[READ MORE >>](#)

[↗ South Jersey heads back to school in 2017](#)

The academy is part of the SABIS Network of charter schools that includes 70,000 students in 20 countries. The organization began in 1886.

Caporilli thanked the SABIS Network for seeing a need for school choice for families who are mismatched with the educational opportunities available to them.

Mayor James “Sonny” McCullough also attended the ceremony to support the new school facility.

“Welcome to Egg Harbor Township. This is your new home,” McCullough said, adding he believes the school could expand more in the mostly vacant shopping center.

[↗ Pleasantville charter school moving to Egg Harbor Township shopping center](#)

Tiki Anderson, of Pleasantville, said she was happy about the larger and more updated facility. She said she hopes it will provide the school room to grow.

Anderson’s son Marcus, 9, is enrolled at the academy, while her older son will enter ninth grade at Pleasantville High School this year.

“I think if they did have a freshman class here, all the way through 12th grade, I would very much encourage my (older) son to enroll here,” Anderson said.

Contact:

609-272-7251 CLowe@pressofac.com Twitter @clairelowe



Compass Academy denied expansion as NJDOE promises to begin review of charter schools



Egg Harbor Township charter school seeks name change amid lawsuits

Claire Lowe

I began covering South Jersey in 2008 after graduating from Rowan University with a degree in journalism. I joined The Press in 2015. In 2013, I was awarded a NJPA award for feature writing as a reporter for The Current of Hamilton Township.

