Vision Therapy in a Washington DC Public Charter School

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Origin of Involvement

IBO Meeting – Institute for Behavioral Optometrists

Doreen Hodges – Executive Director of Family Voices of DC

Lynn Grasso, OT – occupational therapist at Eagle Academy PCS

HSCSN

- Health Services for Children with Special Needs
 - Under 26 years of age
 - Washington DC resident
 - Receives SSI disability benefits or has an SSI-related disability
- Covers CPT codes 92004, 92014, 92060-59, 92015, and 92065
- Pays for transportation and also Applied Behavioral Analysis therapy

Eagle Academy PCS

"A DC charter school dedicated to social, emotional, and academic growth to develop the whole child, ensuring their long-term success"







Eagle Academy PCS

- Grades Pre-K to 3
- Students come from underprivileged backgrounds and have been failed by a public school system that cannot invest the time and resources to address their problems
- Exists to ensure a higher quality education is accessible to every single child
- Focuses on the "whole" child not just academically but emotionally, socially, and physically
- Also employs a psychologist, behavior specialist, and speech and language therapists
- Empowers students with personal responsibility even at their very young ages

Facts About Ward 8

- Eagle Academy is located in Congress Heights in Southeast Washington, DC – which is in Ward 8
- Population of about 73,000
- 94% of the population are African-American, 3% are Caucasian, 1% are Hispanic or Latino
- [McLean has a 1.8% African-American population]
- 38% of its population overall and 50% of its children are living in poverty
- [McLean = 2.5%]
- 73% of its families are headed by a single parent vs 42% for all of DC vs 20% for Fairfax County





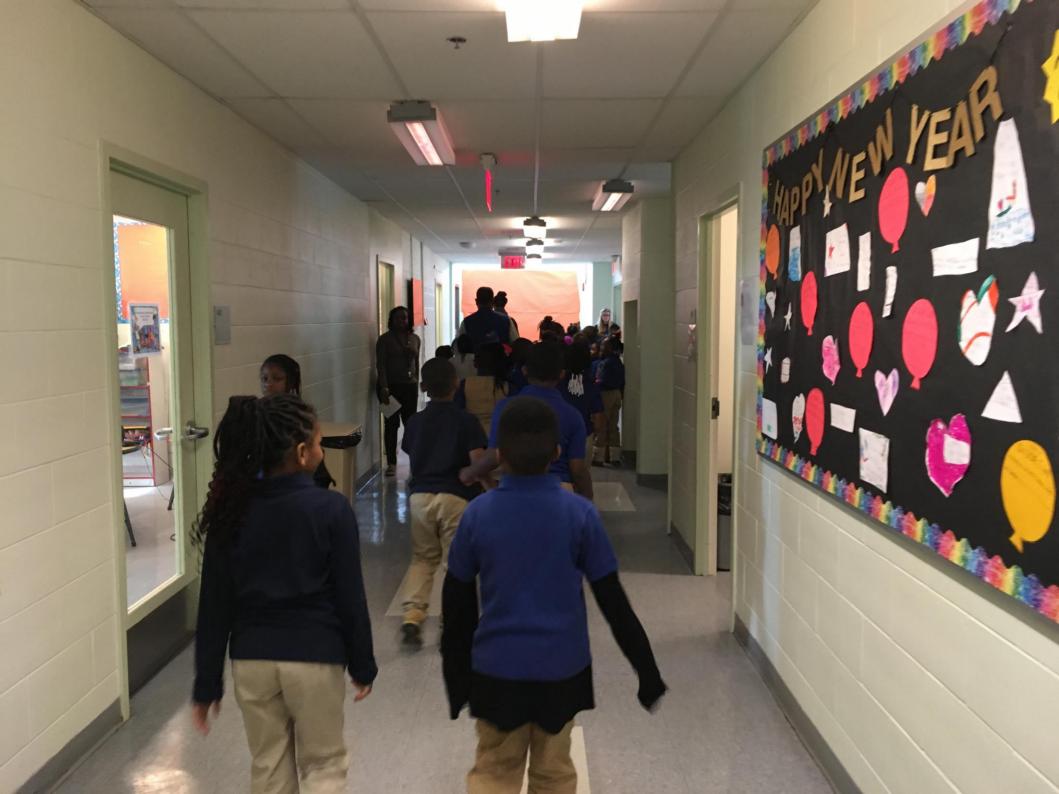


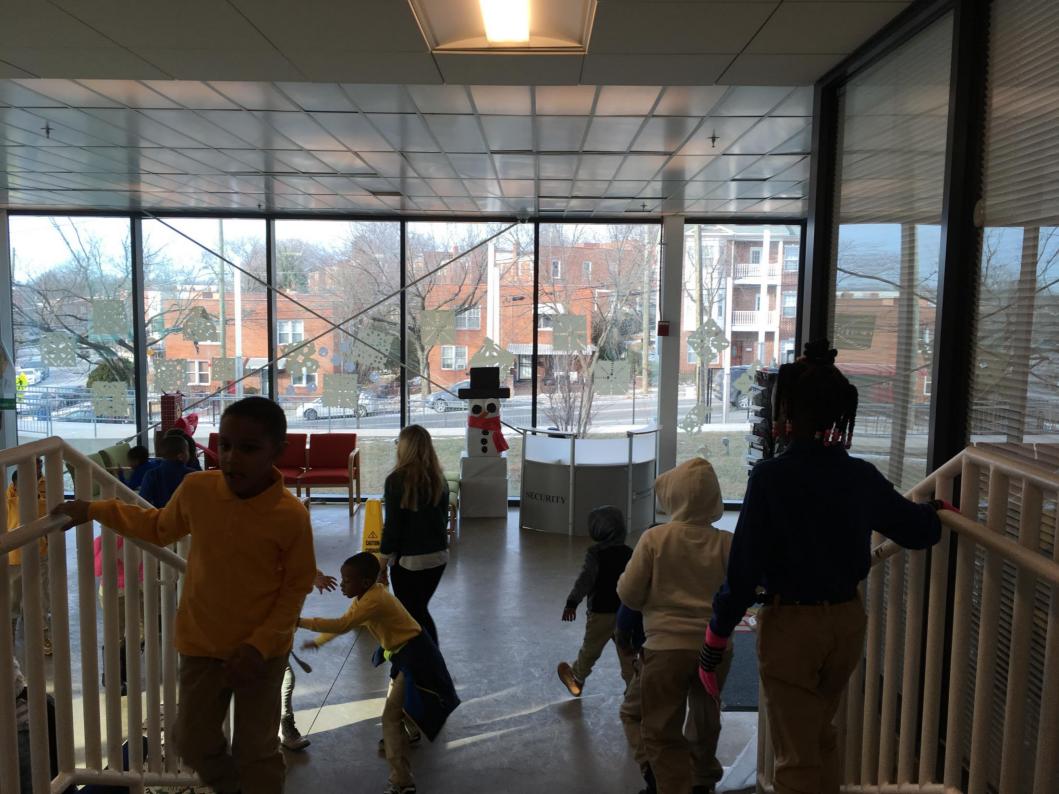




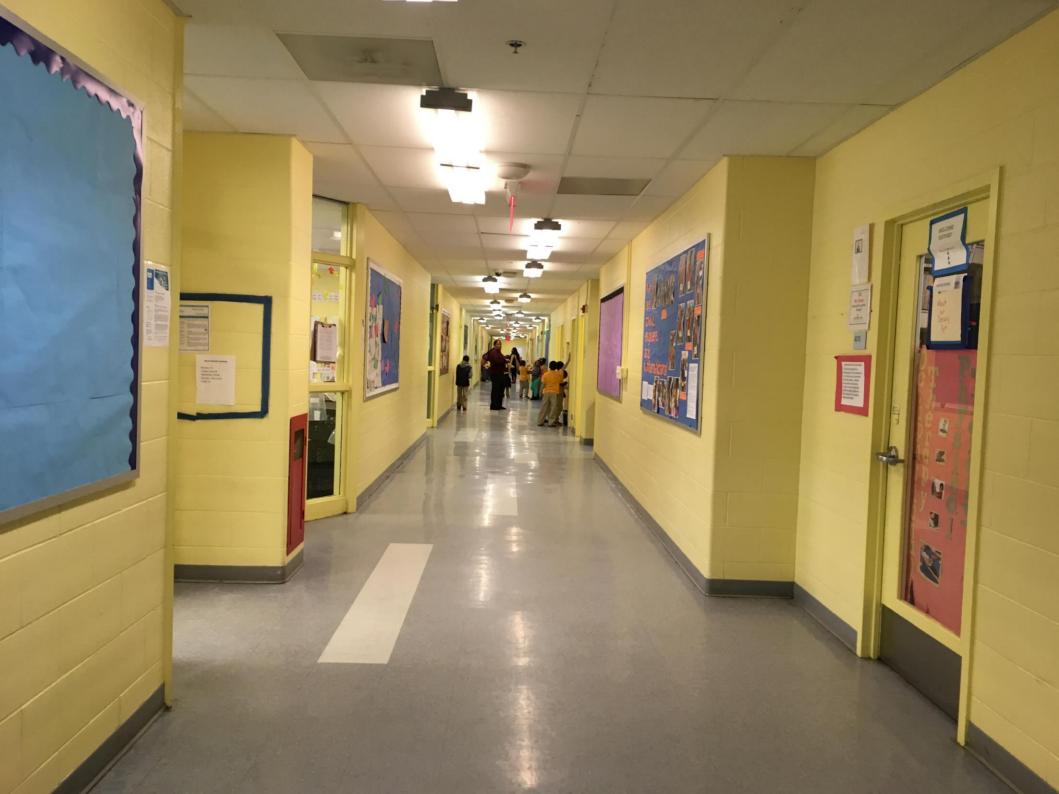












































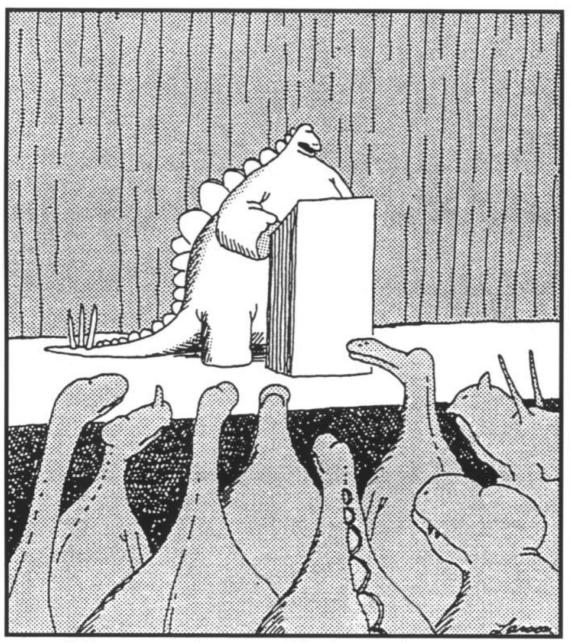
Conclusion: A New Beginning

• Opportunity for growth at Eagle Academy

 Opportunity for this model to be duplicated at other charter schools in DC and possibly other states

These under-served children need a chance

Grit and perseverance



"The picture's pretty bleak, gentlemen. ... The world's climates are changing, the mammals are taking over, and we all have a brain about the size of a walnut."