

## **Kaleem Caire:**

I want to thank everyone for their kind words and support after we shared the news on Tuesday about the wonderful financial gift [One City Schools](#) received from Ms. Pleasant Rowland to purchase a [WPS Health Solutions](#)' facility that will be home to our elementary and (future) secondary schools. Over the last several days, I have received a number of follow-up questions about the building. So, I want to share a little more about the facility. Note: we will own the area "inside" the yellow lines in the photo.

The building is 157,000 square feet with four levels, including one level that is partially underground. One City will also own the 714-stall parking deck and 13.5 acres of land. The outdoors provides enough space for a playground, while the woodlands and nearby marsh will support science exploration and related activities. We are planning to add a significant gymnasium to the facility as well (more to come on that, to), and will make much of our facility open to community-use after school hours when COVID-19 is behind us.

I will save many of the interior photos to share with you later, but want to share a few things we love about the facility. WPS has kept up the building exceptionally well, including updating important mechanicals and equipment, and adding energy-saving LED lighting less than two years ago. The large cafeteria and turn-key commercial kitchen will support our unique Healthy Meals Program. One City's Executive Chef, [Nick Johnson](#), and Sous Chef, Aurora Garcia, and their team will continue preparing fresh meals for our students and staff every day, and provide on-site leadership for our future Culinary Arts program.

The facilities' four levels also provide an open canvass to create the type of educational, community and partnership spaces we will need going forward. When One City Preparatory Academy opens in September 2022 with grades 6 through 10, it will be the first true Early College and Career Prep school in Dane County. Specific College and Career preparation won't start in 9th grade, it will start in 6th. We will

engage students in college and career exploration beginning in 6th and 7th grade when adolescence takes root and their identities are most greatly impacted. Then, our 8th and 9th graders will dive deeper into career immersion and internships in a variety of career fields and educational disciplines while completing a rigorous academic program at the same time (and with sufficient support). From 10th through 12th grade, our students will take courses that earn college credit and certifications in different career fields, paid for by One City.

Our aim is to have all of our students earn a minimum of 30 college credits by the time they receive their high school diplomas. At the same time, we want the majority of our students to complete a career certification program or an associates degree in a technical field that will enable them to (1) start a career and secure a good paying job immediately after high school, (2) create a job for themselves as entrepreneurs, and (3) transfer to an accredited 4-year-college or university with junior standing. We began working on these plans last year, and look forward to sharing more with our community in the weeks and months ahead. I can't wait to share more with you.

PARENTS! Can't afford college for your child? Don't know how to help your child prepare for college or a career? Want your child to be ready and confident to take on a college and career program? Want your child to enjoy learning and school, while having future-focused peers and healthy friendships with young people who push each other forward? Want to engage with a network of awesome parents that are ready to connect with you?

Click here, <https://bit.ly/ONECITY-EnrollToday>, and complete your children's enrollment application today. We still have space in our 2nd, 3rd and 4th grades for next school year, but the seats are filling fast. We are also placing families applying for 4K, 5K and 1st grade on our wait list. Additionally, we are also hiring for the 2021-22 school year and just posted a few new positions online at <https://bit.ly/OneCityJobs2021>.

Be a part of the movement and join us! Apply today! Our children are ready for this, need this and deserve this. Our community and state needs and is ready for it, too.

I also want to give a special shout-out to [Urban Land Interests](#), whose facility we are currently leasing. They have been great property managers and supporters of the things we needed to get done to open our elementary school to in-person instruction in September, and keep it open. At this moment, I am overwhelmed with gratitude. Thank you, all of you. More to come soon. Onward.