



## DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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### Office of the Chancellor

825 North Capitol Street, NE, 9<sup>th</sup> Floor, Washington, D.C., 20002-1994  
(202) 442-5885 – fax: (202) 442-5026

January 27, 2009

Dear Stoddert Elementary School Parents and Families,

Across our school district, we have been working hard to ensure that:

- you have the opportunity to send your children to schools that meet their needs;
- more schools in the city are options for your children;
- schools have the resources to provide an excellent education for your children; and
- a student's path from elementary through high school is predictable and logical.

Choices that we have made as a district, including recent changes to the grades offered at some schools as well as recent school closures, have helped us to make progress on accomplishing these goals. In some cases, however, these changes have made it difficult for families to determine what options exist for their children.

**The purpose of this letter is to ensure that all families have clear and accurate information on what schools are available to their children for the 2009-2010 school year.**

**If your child is in pre-kindergarten through 4th grade at Stoddert this year:**

Your spot is guaranteed at Stoddert for the upcoming year. We hope you will choose to return to Stoddert next year, and we encourage you to register your child here in the spring.

If you are considering school options for your pre-kindergarten through 4th grade student other than Stoddert Elementary School, please see the section below on the DCPS Out-Of-Boundary Enrollment Process for more information.

**If your child is in 5th grade at Stoddert this year:**

He or she will attend sixth grade at a middle school next year, upon successful completion of fifth grade. Your opportunities are as follows:

- All students who successfully complete fifth grade at Stoddert, whether they are in-boundary or out-of-boundary, are guaranteed a spot at Hardy Middle School next year. Hardy Middle School is located at 1819 35th St. NW. All students interested in joining Hardy's arts-intensive program, whether they are in-boundary or out-of-boundary, will need to submit an application. For more information about Hardy's program, call (202) 729-4350 or visit [www.hardymys.org](http://www.hardymys.org).
- Depending upon the address of the house or apartment in which you live, your student may have another option in addition to Hardy Middle School. Every child is "assigned" to a school, based on your address. You can find out your child's assigned school in two ways:
  - On the internet, go to [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options), locate the link for "Find your Assigned Schools" and enter your address.
  - Visit Stoddert and ask the school staff to assist you.

- Some parents prefer that their child go to a school other than their assigned school. In this case, families should apply through the DCPS Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process. Please read below for more information on this process.

**If you have a child whom you would like to enroll in pre-school or pre-kindergarten next year:**

You should apply through the Pre-school and Pre-kindergarten Enrollment Process. In cases where more students want to enter pre-school or pre-kindergarten than there are spaces at a particular school, we will choose students at random. Children who are in-boundary for a school and children who are siblings of current students at that school will receive preference in the lottery. To enter these lotteries, you may apply through the DCPS website at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options), or in person at the elementary school. For more information about the Pre-school and Pre-kindergarten Enrollment Process, see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document.

Families who meet eligibility requirements also have the opportunity to enroll their students in Head Start, a program that provides pre-school and pre-kindergarten programs to families who qualify, along with family supports. To determine if your family is eligible or to enroll in Head Start, please visit your nearest Head Start offices. Addresses for Head Start offices are available in the attached Frequently Asked Questions document and on the Internet at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options). For more information, please call (202) 698-1127.

**Out of Boundary Enrollment Process**

If you would like to send your child to a school other than his or her assigned school(s) next year, you should apply through the DCPS Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process, which opens January 28 and accepts applications through March 13. There is no advantage to submitting an application earlier in the period. You may apply by going to [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options), or in person at your child's school. For more information about applying through the Out-of-Boundary Enrollment Process, see the attached Frequently Asked Questions document or visit [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options).

If you have any questions about continuing to enroll your child at Stoddert or about any of the other options, please visit the school office or call us at (202) 671-6030.

Further information, including a list of Frequently Asked Questions about your child's options, accompanies this letter. This information will also be available at [www.k12.dc.us/options](http://www.k12.dc.us/options) and at your child's school.

If you have additional questions, please contact the DCPS Critical Response Team by calling (202) 442-5885 or via email through "Contact Us" link on the DCPS website.

Sincerely,



Michelle Rhee  
Chancellor

Andrianna Kalapothakos  
Principal