

Dear Dearborn Families and Guardians,

I'm writing with some important news about Dearborn Academy.

Beginning in the 2017-18 school year, Dearborn will have a new home. The school will relocate to 575 Washington Street in Newton.

Some of you may be aware that enrollment pressures facing the Arlington Public Schools have caused the Town to examine the use of its school buildings and to move toward taking back the former Gibbs School building to use for public school students in Arlington. This move affects Dearborn Academy's parent company, Schools for Children, which rents space in the Gibbs building for another of its schools, the Lesley Ellis School. The Schools for Children's Board of Trustees has deliberated over the situation for many months and researched properties that could work for both of its Arlington schools, Lesley Ellis and Dearborn Academy.

Schools for Children has successfully negotiated a long term lease on the property in Newton and has decided to relocate both of its Arlington schools, Dearborn Academy and Lesley Ellis School for the 2017-18 school year.

Schools for Children plans to move Dearborn Academy to the new location at 575 Washington Street in Newton. We will spend the 2016-17 school year making the space ready for our school. Once Dearborn has made the move to its new home, the Lesley Ellis School will then move from its location in the Gibbs School to the vacated facility we own at 34 Winter Street in Arlington. The decision and moves are in line with Schools for Children's efforts to provide long-term stability for all of its schools.

It is important to note that this decision will not affect the current school year or next year's 2016-17 school year. Everything will remain in place until school ends in the late spring of 2017. In the meanwhile, you and your students will be invited to learn about the move, visit the new space, and will be asked to participate in brainstorming ways to make this shift be a positive one for your family.

We believe this move will provide opportunities for both schools. The new facility at 575 Washington Street in Newton is different in many ways from Dearborn's current home in the Crosby Building. The school has almost 50 percent more program space than Dearborn's current home, has well-lighted classrooms, large halls and common areas, a full-size modern gym, centralized heat and cooling systems, plenty of off-street parking and ample room to expand upon the range of specialized services required by Dearborn's students. In the end, the stability and cost-effectiveness of a long-term lease, and the building's proximity to major transportation routes and primary referral sources, make this a logical choice Dearborn Academy.

We understand there will be challenges with this change and transition. Our staff has begun to talk about ways to engage students and families in generating ideas on how best to move the essence of Dearborn Academy into its new facility.

Our mission at Dearborn remains the same: to provide top-quality educational and clinical services to your children. The stability of our programming is key and we expect to have many familiar faces in place when we move. We believe that our relationship-driven programs will be re-created in a new space and that we'll also generate new opportunities for our students.

We welcome any input you may have about this major change and invite you to join us in planning a smooth transition for Dearborn students.

Please feel free to contact me at anytime via email, [twilson@schoolsforchildreninc.org](mailto:twilson@schoolsforchildreninc.org), or phone at 781-641-2424 x1001. You can also call Dearborn's director Howard Rossman at 781-641-5992 x 3028 or email him at [hrossman@dearbornacademy.org](mailto:hrossman@dearbornacademy.org).

Ted Wilson  
Executive Director, Schools for Children