



Catherine Hershey Schools

for early learning

Nurture. Play. Discover.



Overview



- Introduction to Catherine Hershey Schools
- Our Journey & Approach
- CHS in Lancaster County
- Questions



An Introduction to
Catherine Hershey Schools for Early Learning





Catherine Hershey Schools

- Our mission is to create **high-quality early learning communities** that nurture, educate, and empower children and families in **social and financial need** to lead fulfilling and productive lives.
- We provide a **year-round, non-residential** educational, social, and cognitive program to children from **birth to age 5** from **under-resourced and over-burdened backgrounds—with all costs covered.**

Expanding a Legacy

- CHS is a **\$350 million initiative** of Milton Hershey School's to initially develop six Early Childhood Education Centers in Pennsylvania.
- CHS Centers are subsidiaries of **Milton Hershey School**. They are staffed and operated independently of the MHS core model.
- CHS children will **not be automatically admitted to MHS** upon turning 5. However, they are invited to apply for admission to MHS.



Catherine
Hershey
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Inspired by
MILTON HERSHEY SCHOOL



CHS Leadership



Pete Gurt
MHS & CHS President
1985 Graduate of Milton Hershey School



Senate Alexander, Esq.
CHS Executive Director
2006 Graduate of Milton Hershey School

CHS Locations – Dauphin County

Hershey



Opened in Fall 2023

Harrisburg



Opening in 2024
(under construction)

Middletown



Opening in 2025



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Lancaster County Centers



Elizabethtown



**Lancaster
City**



**New
Danville**

CHS Locations – Lancaster County

New Danville



Beginning in 2026
Former Lancaster
Mennonite School

Lancaster City



Beginning in 2026
Corner of North Plum
and East Walnut Streets

Elizabethtown



Beginning in 2026
Former Rheems
Elementary School

Our Program



Schedule:

- Year-round
- Weekdays, 7am-6pm
- Full-time schedules
- Non-residential



Each CHS Location:

- Serves up to 150 children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old
- Employs up to 80 employees





Who We Serve

Minimum Admissions Qualifications

- Come from an **income-eligible** family
- Be **six weeks to 4 years** old at the time of enrollment
- Have the ability to **participate in and benefit from** the CHS program

CHS Approach



High-quality teaching & learning

- Including low teacher to child ratios and a responsive curriculum that leverages a play- and project-based approach to learning



Family success/two-generational approach

- Including family goal-setting and home visiting



Whole child supports

- Including health and nutrition services, early intervention, and transportation



Measuring outcomes

- Including a partnership with a local evaluator and a longitudinal study





CHS Program Outcomes

CHS is conducting longitudinal studies that will produce qualitative and quantitative data enabling us to assess the effect CHS has on children, families, and communities.

Children

Support **Social Emotional** and **Character Development**

Provide **Play-Based Experiences** for Nurtured Cognitive Development

Foster **Health, Well Being,** and **Physical Development**

Families

Promote **Family Engagement** in Children's Development

Facilitate Families' Abilities to **Meet Children's Holistic Needs**

Communities

Strengthen Communities through Direct Impact on CHS Families

Build a Strong **Local Early Learning Ecosystem** and Impact the **National Field**



Delivering the CHS Experience

- **Up to 80 individuals at each CHS Center:**
 - Scholastic
 - Family Success
 - Health Services
 - Operations
 - Leadership & Administration
- **Partnerships with Outside Organizations:**
 - Penn State Health
 - COBYS Family Services
 - University of Pittsburgh
 - Move Forward Counseling
 - Members 1st
 - Elizabethtown College
 - Messiah University

Our Journey Thus Far



2022

October 2022
Groundbreaking
of CHS Harrisburg



November 2022
Announced
Expansion into
Lancaster County



2022

September 2022
Launched First-
Ever Professional
Development
Program at
CHS Hershey





Announcing 3 Lancaster County Locations

2022



October 2022
Groundbreaking
of CHS Harrisburg



November 2022
Announced
Expansion into
Lancaster County



2023

September 2023
CHS Harrisburg
Launches
Professional
Development
Program



2022

2023

September 2022
Launched First-
Ever Professional
Development
Program at
CHS Hershey



March 2023
CHS-hosted
summit of
local ECE
professionals and
providers
featuring national
ECE experts

**2023
ECE
LEADERS
SUMMIT**


Catherine Hershey Schools
for Early Learning



Seeds to Lead Professional Development Program



21

Teachers hired at CHS's first two locations were newly or re-entering the field of Early Childhood Education



40+

Hours of Trauma Informed Care and Children and Grief training was provided to CHS staff



25

CHS employees are on the path to receive their **Child Development Associate** credential



30+

CHS staff members have participated in college classes with **University of Colorado Boulder**, obtaining 6 college credits



40+

Individuals from across **5 local school districts** participated in trainings included in the nearly year-long program



2023

September 2023
CHS Hershey
Grand Opening



October 2023
CHS Hershey
begins serving
children and
families

2023



CHS Hershey



150

Children between the ages of 6 weeks and 5 years old are actively enrolled at CHS Hershey



80%

Children enrolled who did not have access to child care previously



77%

Families at CHS Hershey are ALICE (Asset-Limited, Income-Constrained, Employed), as defined by the United Way



34

Parents and family members who have gained full-time employment since joining CHS



13

Partner organizations have met with families in the center including: The Caring Cupboard, The PA Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, Lebanon County Christian Ministries, and more



Partnerships



40

Families participated in **financial literacy meetings** hosted by **Members 1st**



75

Children registered for **Cocoa Packs**, providing them with **weekly take-home food**



26

Parents employed by partner organizations and companies



2

College and university MOUs established to support continuing education and develop more early childhood educators



Catherine Hershey Schools
in Lancaster County



CHS Lancaster City



CHS New Danville





 CHS Elizabethtown

Play Areas



Classrooms





 Whole Child Supports

Closing Thoughts





Achieving Mission and Vision through Collaborations

- **Establishing partnerships and relationships**
 - Organizations we can collaborate with to deliver the CHS program
 - Organizations who work with families CHS will serve
- **Collaborating on professional development**
- **Gaining a deeper understanding of the Lancaster County community**

Questions

