

# 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





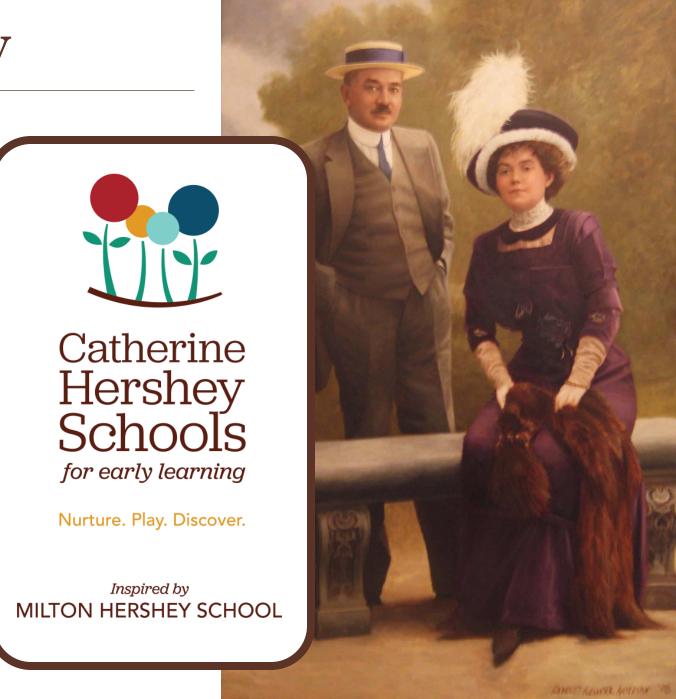
### Catherine Hershey Schools

- 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 underresourced 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.



### 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







### Lancaster County Centers





### 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** 







#### **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 1<sup>st</sup>
- Elizabethtown College
- Messiah University



## Our Journey Thus Far



## 2022

#### October 2022

Groundbreaking of CHS Harrisburg





Announced Expansion into Lancaster County

#### September 2022

Launched First-Ever Professional Development Program at CHS Hershey







**Announcing 3 Lancaster County Locations** 

## 2022





Announced

Expansion into Lancaster County

## 2023



Launches Professional Development Program



#### September 2022

Launched First-**Ever Professional** Development Program at CHS Hershey



2023

#### March 2023

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

2023

**ECE** 

**LEADERS SUMMIT** 

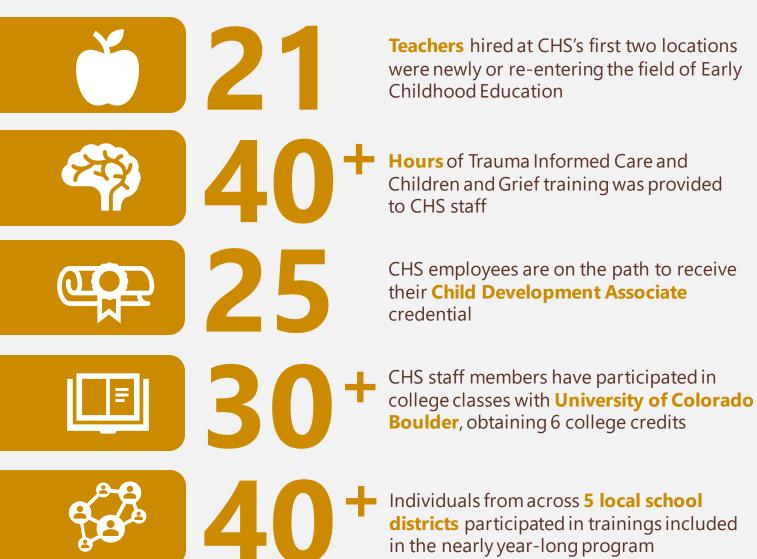
Catherine Hershey Schools







### Seeds to Lead Professional Development Program





## 





**September 2023**CHS Hershey
Grand Opening



### CHS Hershey

**3** 150

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



**Children** enrolled who did not have access to child care previously



%

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



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



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 **175** 26

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

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

**Parents employed** by partner organizations and companies

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



## Catherine Hershey Schools in Lancaster County















### 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

