

PRESS RELEASE

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High School for the Arts joins forces with Banana Factory for Back to School Leadership Summit

BETHLEHEM, PA--- Administrators of the Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts along with its Instructional Leadership Team (ILT) held a Leadership Summit to prepare its department chairs and artistic directors for the upcoming school year. Over the course of a couple days, the group used the time to build and enhance relationships, set long and short-term goals, and share strategies for ensuring that the focus of the work is always united and on improving the educational experience for all of the students at Charter Arts.

One exercise that incorporated the school's mantra of including the community as part of its campus for students and faculty, involved a glass blowing exercise with the team at the Banana Factory. "The glass blowing activity was a way to give us a common experience in our local artistic community, which we used to anchor our discussions throughout the week regarding our individual strengths, areas of growth, leadership styles, and teamwork," says Charter Arts Principal, Dr. Carise Comstock.

Charter Arts Executive Director, Diane LaBelle added, "Part of the team building experience was the opportunity for all members of the leadership team to create a unique glass plate with the help of the glass artists at the Banana Factory hot shop. All of the individual plates will be installed as a single art piece at the entrance to the school symbolizing the importance of unique individuals coming together to create a successful whole that is the organization of Charter Arts."

Charter Arts will welcome close to 650 students for the start of the 2018-2019 school year on August 27, 2018. 2018 marks the school's fifteenth anniversary.

Recently, the school was ranked #14 on Niche's 2019 Best High Schools for the Arts in America list. This recognition adds to the school's already impressive list of accolades. For instance, earlier this year, the school also earned a Silver Award for its impressive ranking on U.S. News & World Report's 2018 Best High Schools list. In addition, on Keystone Exam testing, both the Class of 2017 and the Class of 2018 earned the highest combined proficiency scores of all public and charter schools in the Lehigh Valley.

ABOUT THE LEHIGH VALLEY CHARTER HIGH SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS (Charter Arts):

The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts, opened in 2003, is an audition-based, tuition-free, public charter school that provides a comprehensive curriculum for high school students, grades 9-12, who have a passion for the arts. Students major in one of eight artistic areas: dance, theater, vocal music, instrumental music, literary arts, figure skating, production design, or visual art.

Charter Arts' rigorous curriculum fosters both academic and artistic excellence for its students. The school's impressive PA School Performance Profile (SPP) Academic Score, AP and Keystone exam statistics, student SAT scores, prestigious artistic accolades, and graduation rate are a testament to the outstanding education Charter Arts provides. The Lehigh Valley Charter High School for the Arts is located at 321 East 3rd Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. For more information call 610-868-2971 or visit the school's website at www.CharterArts.org.