



Jilly Darefsky, Head of School, Erik Heyer, Founder, and Clay Kaufman, Head of School ribbon cutting ceremony.

The Siena School Opens in New Building *With renovations now complete, school occupies permanent home*

SILVER SPRING, MARYLAND, January 31st – Students, faculty and staff at The Siena School “Siena” cut the ribbon today to celebrate the beginning of classes in its new school building at 1300 Forest Glen Road. The opening day marked the completion of a multi-million dollar, seven-month renovation to the 21,000 square foot facility that includes a full-sized gymnasium, two art rooms, a photography darkroom, a science lab, outdoor playing fields and a playground. The building is less than a mile from Siena’s old home, and remains readily accessible by public transportation.

“Today is an incredible milestone for The Siena School,” said Erik Heyer, Siena’s founder. “Over the past six years, we have developed an unbelievable program and school community. To finally own our own building is just so exciting for our students, parents and staff. We can’t wait to see what we will accomplish in this new, state-of-the-art facility.”



The new building is more than double the size of Siena's old facility. It features mounted projectors in each classroom, and high-speed Wi-Fi internet throughout the entire building to enable students and staff to access the most current learning technology. Siena's new school property is bordered by Sligo Creek Park, with miles of trails and parkland, and Argyle Park, which offers access to soccer and softball fields, basketball and tennis courts.

"We are excited to complement our robust academic and arts program with a comparable building," said Clay Kaufman, co-head of school. "To have such a beautiful space, with its elegant Tuscan theme, a beautiful full-size gym, playing fields and an expanded arts space, truly fulfills a dream."

The new building will allow Siena to grow to approximately 110 students, with expansion potential to 225 students under its zoning permit.

Siena students are quick to comment on their new home.

"This is a great building for us; it is very spacious, with state of the art technology, and energy saving water fountains." Zev gr 6.

"Now we can have more people!" Noah gr 6.

"We finally have a gym." Aaron gr 6.

"I love the classrooms, this is the best school ever." Ethan gr 5.

"I love the science lab, it's very safe." Leora gr 6.

"I like the bigger classrooms; we have more room to move and having outdoor recess." Sara gr 4.

"The wildcat logo on the gym floor is one of the coolest things." Spencer gr 5.

Our new address is 1300 Forest Glen Road, Silver Spring, MD 20901.



About The Siena School

The Siena School in Silver Spring, Maryland serves bright, college-bound students with language-based learning differences, such as dyslexia. Siena's staff and board of advisors include distinguished national, state and local education leaders and professionals. The school was established in 2006 and serves students in grades 4 – 12. Siena's program is designed for students with mild to moderate learning needs who are experiencing a discrepancy between their academic achievement and intellectual abilities in one or more areas such as reading, writing, oral expression or math. Siena delivers an individualized educational program featuring small class sizes, research-based instructional methodologies, a highly trained staff and an educational environment specifically designed to meet the unique needs of our students, with a specific emphasis on the arts. Siena is accredited by Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools and is an affiliate member of the National Association of Independent Schools (NAIS).

Distinguished local educators on the Advisory Board include Dr. Guinevere Eden, Director of the Center for the Study of Learning at Georgetown University Medical Center; Abigail Wiebenson, retired head of Lowell School; William Stixrud, well known area psychologist specializing in learning disabilities, and director of William Stixrud and Associates in Silver Spring, Maryland; Claire Nissenbaum, founder and director emerita of the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center, a nationally accredited training program for dyslexia teachers and tutors located in Rockville, MD; Robin Church of the Kennedy Krieger Institute; and Janet Wintrol, director of Ivymount School Programs in Rockville, MD. The Advisory Board also includes Matthew Moyer of National Geographic, one of the nation's rising young photojournalists; Peter Jablow, President and CEO of the Levine School of Music, one of the country's leading community music schools and Bonnie Fogel, founder and executive director of Imagination Stage, the largest and most respected multi-disciplinary theatre arts organization for young people in the Washington, DC region.

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