

Vaux Big Picture High School (NS)

www.bigpicturephiladelphia.org

2300 West Master St
Philadelphia, PA 19121

Principal:

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Student Enrollment: 252

[Grades 9 & 10 in 2018-19;
Grades 9, 10 & 11 in 2019-20;
2019-20 enrollment: 378]

Admission Requirements:

A non-criteria admission school
with a neighborhood preference.

Feeder Schools:

Meade, Morris

SEPTA Routes:

Bus: 7, 33, 61
Trolley: 15 (Girard Avenue)

School Progress Report (SPR)

Overall SPR
Performance TierNA

Performance Tier by Domain:

AchievementNA
ProgressNA
ClimateNA
College & CareerNA



Mission & Approach to Learning:

Our mission is to provide students with a highly personalized educational program, applied learning in real-world contexts, deep and continuous relationships with parents and the community, and sustained postsecondary transition programs. Graduates will possess the academic, social, and personal skills to successfully engage in post-secondary learning opportunities, find employment, and productively give back to their community and the world.

Vaux Big Picture High School will foster a culture where all stakeholders, regardless of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation or socioeconomic attainment, value each other and work together toward an interdependent, safe and nurturing community.

Vaux Big Picture High School (BPHS) opened its doors in September 2017 to welcome the first Graduating Class of 2021! Vaux BPHS is part of the Big Picture Learning network which successfully serves youth in more than 70 schools nationwide.

Core approaches of Vaux High School:

Advisory: Every student will be placed in an Advisory upon enrolling at Vaux BPHS. Advisories are small communities within the school that students remain with until graduation. Advisories are valuable support systems helping students develop close relationships with the advisor and their peers.

Exhibitions: At the end of each semester, instead of taking midterm or final exams, all students present an exhibition of their work and learning. Exhibitions provide opportunities for students' work to be appreciated and critiqued by people whom they trust – their family members, their advisor, their real-world mentors, and their peers.

Learning Through Internships (LTI):

Students will participate in one-on-one internships with a mentor in the community who shares the student's passion or career interest. Students engage in hands-on learning experiences, providing them with real-world skills and preparing them for employment upon graduation.

Post-Secondary Focus: Each student, prior to graduation, will complete a post-secondary graduation plan, including all financial aid requirements, at least three applications to colleges/universities or trade schools, a cover letter and a resume.



Points of Pride:

A March 2010 quote from President Barack Obama: "That's why we (the United States of America) will follow the examples of places like Big Picture...that give students that individual attention, while also preparing them through real-world, hands-on training ... the possibility of succeeding in a career."

Daily attendance rates of all Big Picture 4-year-high schools is 94%-97%; on-time graduation rate is 87%; over 95% of graduates were accepted into a 4-year-college; 75% of Big Picture alumni were either still in college or had graduated within five years after high school.

Measures for positive, safe learning: Vaux BPHS offers a staff of Resilience Specialists to provide counseling and social work support for students and their families. Vaux BPHS also provides a Positive Support Team to focus on building a climate based on respect and trust and helping our students take ownership of their behavior.

Arts activities and classes: Drama and PE in 9th Grade; and Art/Dance and Spanish in 10th Grade; Art/Dance and Spanish in 11th Grade.

Real World Internships: Tuesdays from 11:00-3:00 for 10th grade students; Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11:00 - 3:00 for 11th grade students.

Additional activities: Weekly visits to external sites for 9th grade students.



Courses & Program Highlights:

Foreign languages: Spanish

Real World Learning: Every Vaux BPHS student engages in Real World Learning. All 9th Grade students take the class, Real World Learning, where they leave the building once a week to learn more about their interests and passions in the greater Philadelphia area. 9th grade students work the entire year to earn their LTI Ticket which enables them to begin their Learning Through Internship in 10th grade. In 10th grade through 12th grade, all students participate in a Learning Through Internship, a hands-on experience where students complete projects with and for a mentor in a field for which they have an interest and passion.

Dual enrollment: Dual enrollment with Community College of Philadelphia starting in 10th grade.

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Vaux Big Picture High School (NS) *continued*

Courses & Program Highlights: *continued*

Parent involvement: Families are encouraged to join our School Advisory Council; Every family is expected to attend their student's mid-year and end-of-year Exhibitions of Learning.



Partnerships:

Community College of Philadelphia: Vaux High School has a dual- enrollment agreement with CCP so students can begin their college careers while still in high school.

Philadelphia Youth Network: Vaux BPHS is teaming up with PYN to develop unique hands-on real world experiences with regional industry partners.

Philadelphia Learning Collaborative: Big Picture Philadelphia was a founding member of this Philadelphia-based collaborative that focuses on developing, researching and replicating successful youth development models.

Student Mentors: Big Picture currently has partnerships with over 400 mentors citywide who are eager to provide students with an opportunity to pursue their passion/career aspiration.

Teacher Training: Vaux BPHS is committed to serving as a teaching laboratory for aspiring teachers. Vaux BPHS will provide local university students with the opportunity to fulfill their student teaching expectations, and members of Big Picture's leadership team will serve as adjunct and guest instructors within Temple's College of Education.



Extracurricular Activities:

Clubs and activities are determined on an annual basis by students and staff. In 2017-19, we had clubs in Chess, Gardening, Music, Robotics, Spoken Word, Student Government, and Theater



Sports Teams:

- Basketball—JV and Varsity, Boys' & Girls'
- Cross Country and Track— Varsity Boys' & Girls'
- Dance / Cheer—Girls'
- Volleyball— Junior Varsity, Boys' & Girls'