

Buxmont Academy Elementary School opens in Pottstown

Buxmont Academy Elementary Program at Pottstown opens its doors January 30, 2012, providing elementary-school children with essential education and special education services close to home.

Buxmont Academy executive director Craig Adamson expressed appreciation to the Pottstown School District for recognizing Buxmont's proven-effective methods for helping children, youth and families succeed academically through the use of restorative practices. (Buxmont Academy currently operates five second-

ary-level schools in eastern Pennsylvania, including one in Pottstown.)

Adamson was also thrilled that the innovative elementary school had recently passed a rigorous review by the Pennsylvania Department of Education State Board of Private Academic Schools.

The community-based, nonprofit, independent private academic school serves regular and special-education students in grades 1-6, starting with pupils from Pottstown School District, then expanding to serve districts in Montgomery, Berks and

Chester counties.

"The new school represents a true partnership with the Pottstown School District," said Adamson, crediting Superintendent Reed Lindley for "working collaboratively on this initiative to create the first restorative elementary school."

Said Lindley, "Buxmont has effectively supported secondary students at their location on North Charlotte Street, Pottstown, but we had no local school to provide the necessary support services for elementary age students. This program connects with the

District's restorative behavior philosophy, reduces costs, and is more accessible to parents and district staff. The location allows students to spend more time with their teachers and less time on a school van."

"At Buxmont, we work with children within the community with the goal of providing academic programming while supporting individual student needs," said Adamson, adding, "We empower children to enhance their emotional and social skills to help them succeed with their classmates, create

healthy learning environments and excel academically."

Like all Buxmont programs, the school operates according to the principles of restorative practices, which fosters higher levels of connectedness and reduces incidents of misbehavior and disruptiveness. Buxmont Academy's sister organization, Community Service Foundation (CSF), was founded in 1977 and has helped more than 10,000 children and youth in Pennsylvania turn their lives around.

Like all CSF and Buxmont programs, the new

school is a demonstration program of the International Institute for Restorative Practices (IIRP) Graduate School, in Bethlehem. Pottstown School District has also implemented restorative practices in some of its public schools, with professional development support from the IIRP.

Buxmont Elementary Program at Pottstown is located at 940 N. Franklin St., Pottstown, in the former Pottstown School District Administration Annex.