



MEDIA ALERT

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **Bowser tours improvements at Ward 4 schools in advance of new year**

*Truesdell and Whittier campuses open for learning; Councilmember to warn motorists to slow down*

**Washington, D.C.** – In anticipation of the start of the upcoming school year, Councilmember Muriel Bowser toured two Ward 4 schools, which have recently undergone significant modernization improvements. Bowser, accompanied by the construction teams and personnel from the Office of Public Education Facilities Modernization, inspected the new and improved facilities at the campuses of Whittier and Truesdell schools and deemed them ready for learning. Both schools have been transformed to K-8 campuses.

“On Monday morning at 8:45 sharp, our children will walk into these two buildings that have, in just a few months, been transformed into cathedrals of learning,” said Bowser.

Both campuses are receiving the finishing touches of Phase 1 of the District of Columbia Public Schools modernization plan that includes new natural and artificial lighting that will create an environment conducive to successful learning; new smart boards, science labs, and bathrooms; HVAC upgrades to ensure students are learning in healthy, comfortable classrooms; improved data connections and audiovisual capacities; and classrooms outfitted with new furniture and sound-dampening walls. The improvements totaled \$6.2 million and were completed during the summer months so that learning was not interrupted. At Whittier, more work will begin in the spring on a new cafeteria, and Truesdell will receive all new windows before the year is out, and a new gymnasium in the next phase.

“I commend the Mayor for investing in our schools. These sparkling new facilities are an investment in our children, and in the long-term success of our city,” said Bowser. “And there’s more to come. I look forward to the modernization of all of our schools.”

In just the next two years, several other Ward 4 schools are set to receive Phase 1 Modernizations, including LaSalle, Powell, Sharpe, and Roosevelt High School.

As schools open on Monday morning, Councilmember Bowser will be out in the vicinity of West Education Campus for her 2nd Annual Back to School Slow Down Campaign, during which she and a team of volunteers will remind motorists to reduce their speed in school zones.

“It is important that cars speeding through Ward 4 neighborhoods slow down and be mindful of the fact children will be going to and from school again,” said Councilmember Bowser.

Individuals interested in joining Ms. Bowser are encouraged to contact Brandon Todd via e-mail at [btodd@dccouncil.us](mailto:btodd@dccouncil.us).

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*A native Washingtonian and former ANC commissioner, Councilmember Muriel Bowser is Chair of the Committee on Public Services and Consumer Affairs. She is also a member of the Committees on: Economic Development, Human Services, Public Works and Transportation, and Public Safety and the Judiciary. Visit [www.murielbowser.com](http://www.murielbowser.com) for more information.*

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