



November 1, 2012

Dear Prospective PCS Family,

We are pleased that you are considering the Paul Cuffee School for your child. Attached, please find the application form as well as an important letter from Head of School Michael Obel-Omia describing student and parent expectations at Paul Cuffee School.

The Paul Cuffee School opened its doors in 2001 and has continued to grow every year since. In September 2010 the Paul Cuffee School High School began with the addition of 9th grade. We are now accepting applications for all grades, Kindergarten through grade 12.

Important: Please print all information clearly and accurately on the application to ensure your child is placed appropriately in the lottery and that we can contact you should your child's name be selected. Incomplete applications will not be placed in the lottery. Also, if you do not receive an application confirmation within two weeks of submission, you should assume your application was incomplete or we did not receive it.

Admission is determined by open lottery. The admission lottery will be held on March 1, 2013.

The deadline to apply is February 13, 2013. All applications received after that date will be placed on the waiting list, after the lottery, in the order received.

We anticipate approximately 50 openings in Kindergarten, 8 openings in 6th grade, 20 openings in 9th grade and very few openings in all other grades.

Please join us for our upcoming Open House events. Note: Parking is limited for the K-8 Open House due to construction. Please use street parking or lot at American Locomotive Works - 555 Valley Street (entrance off Hemlock St).

Open House

Annual event for prospective parents of students applying to Kindergarten – 8th grade.

November 14, 2012 from 6-7 p.m.

Elementary School
459 Promenade Street

High School Open House

For prospective parents of students applying to grades 9, 10, 11, and 12.

December 12, 2012 from 6-7:30 p.m.

High School
544 Elmwood Avenue

To RSVP for either event, please send an e-mail to admissions@paulcuffee.org or call the main office at 453-2626 ext. 227.

If you have any questions about the application form and/or application process, please call me at (401) 453-2626 ext. 227.

Sincerely,

Olinda Matos
Admissions Coordinator

A Maritime Charter School for Providence Children

Admissions Office | 459 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908 | www.paulcuffeeschool.org | (401) 453-2626 | fax: (401) 453-4964



PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL

A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth

Dear Prospective Families,

We are delighted that you are interested in Paul Cuffee School, a Rhode Island Charter school that provides a college preparatory K-12 academic program for students who live in Providence. Founded in 2001, Paul Cuffee School takes inspiration from its namesake, Paul Cuffee, a ship builder and a ship captain who lived on the Southeast coast of Massachusetts at the time of the American Revolution. An important civic leader committed to non-violence, he founded a school in Westport, Massachusetts that welcomed children of different racial and ethnic backgrounds. Paul Cuffee's mother was a Wampanoag Indian and his father was a freed slave born in Ghana.

In keeping with Paul Cuffee's legacy, at the core of what we do is educate active, global citizens who are aware of their world, eager to improve it, and want to do something great with their lives. Drawing on the area's natural resource, the Narragansett Bay, our school gives emphasis to the ocean and environment. All subjects are rigorous and demanding, so students and families applying to the Paul Cuffee School need to keep in mind that we require about 2 hours of homework every night by the time our students reach middle school.

In the K-5 elementary school, we primarily focus on language arts (reading, phonics, spelling, writing), mathematics, social studies, and science. The arts program helps the students explore and integrate the many lessons they are learning in language arts and mathematics. Students in our 6-8 middle school develop critical thinking, communication, and complex-problem-solving skills in all areas of study. Our high school students deepen the important skills learned in the middle school and expand on them, learning how to think independently, speak persuasively, work collaboratively, act courageously, and serve humbly.

Our School requires a three-way partnership in which our teachers and staff, our students, and our parents are all working together to achieve the demanding academic goals we have for our students, and to create the kind of safe, caring, and inspiring academic community that all of us want. The work and expectations at Paul Cuffee School are demanding. Students who work hard and who want to learn, regardless of their reading, writing, and mathematics levels, succeed because of the care and attention our staff gives them and the reinforcement and support from parents at home. We use Origin's Responsive Classroom in the Elementary School and its Developmental Designs in our Middle and High Schools. These philosophies encourage our focusing not only on the intellectual and academic aspects of our students, but also, and equally important, they allow us to nurture and foster the social and emotional growth of our students.

Students whose parents (or in some cases, grandparents) work with them each day at home are successful at our school. Parents must review homework assignments, classroom activities, personal behavior, and school life each day with their children. Parents meet formally at least two times each year with the classroom teacher, and we expect parents to learn about our academic programs and our academic standards. Parental involvement in the student's life is the key to the student's success.

We also expect parents to take the time to understand the responsible behavior we require at the Paul Cuffee School and to support our efforts and the efforts of their children to behave respectfully, responsibly, non-violently, and thoughtfully in school and at home.

We believe that our academic programs are exciting and engaging, and we also believe that being a member of our community is enjoyable and rewarding. We hope that this brief description of Paul Cuffee School informs, inspires, and encourages you to think seriously whether it is the right place for your child to begin or continue his or her education. I look forward to exploring that question with you.

Sincerely,

Michael C. Obel-Omia
Head of School

Elementary School
459 Promenade Street
Providence, RI 02908
P: 401.453.2626
F: 401.453.4964

Middle School
30 Barton Street
Providence, RI 02909
P: 401.453.2711
F: 401.453.2715

High School
544 Elmwood Avenue
Providence, RI 02907
P: 401.781.2727
F: 401.781.2828



Enrollment Information

Is my child eligible?

- Student must be a resident of the City of Providence.
- Age requirements:
 - Students must be 5 years old on or before September 1st to enter Kindergarten.
 - Students must be 6 years old on or before September 1st to enter 1st Grade.
- Parents must complete and submit an application form by the deadline.

What if my child is admitted through the lottery?

- Acceptance letters and a list of required forms and documentation will be mailed to students selected immediately following the lottery. Families are required to turn in the completed forms and documentation within fifteen days to confirm acceptance. If families do not provide completed forms and documentation within fifteen days, the student's admission space may be given to the next eligible student on the waiting list.
- Students who are admitted will be required to attend a Welcome and Screening Day in May and a New Student Orientation in August.

What if my child gets wait-listed following the lottery?

- Students who apply to the school but are not successful in gaining enrollment through the lottery will be placed on the waiting list in the order that they were drawn in the lottery.
- Parents of wait-listed students will be mailed a form to confirm whether or not they wish for their child to remain on the active waiting list for the upcoming school year. Parents will have approximately one month after the date on the notification letter to return the form to the Admissions Office. Students whose forms are not returned by the deadline will be removed from the waiting list.
- In accordance with the Rhode Island Department of Education enrollment guidelines for charter schools, waiting lists will not be carried over from year to year. Each year, a new lottery of **all** applicants – those on the previous waiting list as well as all new applicants – will be conducted. **Applicants still on the waiting list (active waiting list) will be mailed a form to be eligible for the lottery the following year.**

2013 - 2014 Enrollment Timeline

Nov 1	Begin to accept applications (K – 12)
Nov 14	Open House (K-8)
Dec 12	High School Open House
Feb 13	Last day to accept applications
Mar 1	Lottery for all grades
Mar 4	Acceptance letters sent out, followed by waiting list letters
May (TBA)	Welcome & Screening for K-8 new students
May – Aug	Families will be called from the active waiting list if spots become available
Aug (TBA)	Required Summer session for all new 9 th graders.
Late Aug/ early Sept	School begins



PAUL CUFFEE SCHOOL
A Maritime Charter School for Providence Youth

2013 – 2014 RHODE ISLAND PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL LOTTERY APPLICATION

Student Information:

Name: _____
Last First Middle

Address: _____
Street City State Zip Code

Date of Birth: ____ / ____ / ____ District of Residency: PROVIDENCE
Month Day Year

Grade Applying for (circle one): K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

Parent/Guardian Information:

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Relation to Child: _____

Name: _____ Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____ Relation to Child: _____

Additional Information:

Does the above applicant have a brother or sister currently enrolled in the school? Yes No

If yes, please provide the brother or sister's name: _____

Is another brother or sister also applying on a separate form? Yes No

If yes, please provide the brother or sister's name: _____

Is the above applicant the child of a school founder? Yes No

If yes, provide the founder's name: _____

I affirm that the information contained in this application is, to my knowledge, completely true.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

I agree that my child's school records may be used for studies on the effectiveness of public charter schools. If the studies are publicized, only group data, not student level data, will be reported. Sensitive student information will remain confidential under the state and federal law.

Yes

Note: Checking "No" will NOT affect your child's chances for admission.

No

Please return this completed application form no later than February 13, 2013 to Paul Cuffee School.
Address: 459 Promenade Street, Providence, RI 02908
Phone: 401-453-2626 **Fax:** Applications not accepted by fax
Email: admissions@paulcuffee.org

SCHOOL USE ONLY
Date Received
ID#
Signature