



GLEN MILLS SCHOOLS

Service to youth since 1826

The Glen Mills Schools' Efforts

Dear Friends of The Glen Mills Schools,

I am honored to lead The Glen Mills Schools in my new capacity as Acting Executive Director. My number one priority is protecting the safety and well-being of every student that we serve. First, here's a little bit of information about me. For more than 35 years, I have worked in various roles supporting, mentoring, and developing youth. In 2008, I founded *The Spriggs Young Men's Retreat*, a mentoring program designed to bolster the skills and confidence of young men - www.youngmensretreat.shutterfly.com. In 2014, I was honored by The National Partnership for Juvenile Services for "Service and Advocacy for Youth." This national award recognized my continued efforts to enhance training and organizational commitment in juvenile placements. I am committed to building positive partnerships, engaging in new areas of service delivery, implementing creative programming, and preserving The Glen Mills Schools long after my tenure.

The Staff and Board at The Glen Mills Schools welcomes a new direction. I am pleased to announce that for the first time in the history of The Glen Mills Schools, our board is chaired by a female. Carolyn Seagraves, our new board president, has added her talents as an advocate for children with special needs, a journalist, and a mom. She undertakes her responsibilities with energy, professionalism, and the critical dedication necessary to move The Glen Mills Schools forward. She is a long-time supporter, active community member, and respected leader.

In addition, I am reaching out today to provide an update on the efforts we are currently undertaking to restructure and reformulate our programs and service delivery. The Glen Mills Schools programs, living units, staffing, and philosophy will be vastly different moving forward. After the layoff of 250 full time staff, contractors, and part-time employees, The Glen Mills Schools has embarked on a restructuring effort that will include new hiring practices, a restructuring of our residential units, and a complete program overhaul.

A Trauma-Informed program will serve as the keystone to our new model. Our new program will embrace best practices in the field and provide a high quality of service. To that end, we are creating new job descriptions with an emphasis on Trauma-Informed service delivery, student services, and metrics for employees that will be reviewed and scored on a biannual basis. All of our employees will be further trained to understand the impact of trauma on our youth, the ability to recognize the signs of trauma, and how best to respond to our student's needs.

For 193 years The Glen Mills Schools has been committed to serving troubled youth and providing quality programming, with the goal of changing young men's lives for the better. We thank you for your support and pledge to provide a safe and secure program where youth can reach their highest potential.

I would welcome your feedback and suggestions. I can be reached at (610) 459-8100, ext.398 and cspriggs@glenmillsschools.org.

Helen Keller once said, "Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much." This is a quote that I live by. I hope you will join me in shaping The Glen Mills Schools of tomorrow.

Sincerely,
Dr. Christopher Spriggs
Acting Executive Director