

From: James Furmato <infocso@doe.k12.de.us>
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To: infocso
Subject: Delaware Design-Lab High School Major Modification Application Public Comment

Charter School: Delaware Design-Lab High School

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Public Comment: I have had an opportunity to meet the faculty, the administration and several students at this newly opened school.

My son, a sophomore, is quite happy with the academic environment. He, and several classmates, petitioned to add new math courses to the curriculum this year so it would be possible to take Calculus in senior year. The school was happy to encourage this. They are supportive when students develop new clubs and activities as well.

At a recent training activity, the faculty showed enthusiasm and support for the Design Thinking approach applied throughout the curriculum. Student and teachers are learning a different approach to learning and reinforcing material.

The administration, including the founders, use the Design Thinking approach as the school develops and grows. This top-down example inspires the entire school.

The school requested a reduction in enrollment from 175 to 150 per class. This seems reasonable until the school has a permanent location. The two classes in the school are smaller than the maximum 175 and are well served by the faculty and staff.

Many students are content at Design-Lab High. Despite coming from many communities and backgrounds, more students feel united by this new education model. As the school matures in its mission, it will become a popular destination for graduating eighth graders.