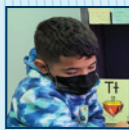




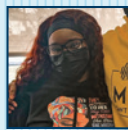
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adopts GPA

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Spring 2022

# Education... *GPA* today

*for a Lifetime*

 Garfield Park  
Academy

News and Information  
from Garfield Park Academy



## Community Connections

DeVal Church in Willingboro has 'adopted' Garfield Park Academy as part of their community outreach efforts, building connections and fostering a deeper sense of belonging for our students.

"When we met the students and staff at Garfield Park Academy, they literally won our hearts," said Pastor Vincent S. Russ, Associate Pastor at DeVal Church. "They do such good and important work."

The first connection came in the summer of 2021 when the church organized a back-to-school campaign, collecting and donating back packs and school supplies for the students at Garfield Park Academy. This winter, the church's "Angel Tree" program allowed the church members to donate a holiday gift to a student or their family.

"We are looking to the future, and ways to deepen the connection, with discussions underway for a mentorship program for the students," said Kerrie Morse, Director at GPA.

"Our students want to give back," added Morse. "We are planning for our culinary students to make and help serve lunch to the local community at the church. GPA's horticulture students will also make flower arrangement for an upcoming DeVal conference."









# GPA'S TRAINING INSTITUTE HITS M I L E S T O N E



**More than 1,000 educators and school professionals have benefited from free professional development programs offered through The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy.**

Established in 2014, The Training Institute shares best practices in the education and therapeutic treatment of students with social, emotional, behavioral, and learning disabilities.

Two professional development seminars are offered annually at no cost to educators in Burlington County and the surrounding areas.

With the recent move to virtual learning, the Training Institute has attracted an international audience, with guests from England, Canada, and India. The program is highly sought-

after, with registration often closing at capacity. Expert speakers have addressed topics on Self-Regulation, Trauma-Informed Special Education, Substance Abuse, Auditory Processing Disorders, and Compassion Fatigue, to name a few.

"The Training Institute is an extension of our mission, allowing us to help students outside of our school, and to share evidence-based practices with other educators," said Audra Snyder, MSW, who coordinates the program.

## MOMENTUM TRANSITION SERVICES TAKE NO TIME OFF

Leaders at Garfield Park Academy knew that pandemic-related closures could not interrupt transition and vocational programming.

As soon as students were back in the building, the school-based programming was back up and running.

In addition to academic readiness for higher education, students can prepare for careers in carpentry, cosmetology, culinary arts,

horticulture, retail and business, and automotive through GPA's NJDOE certified vocational programs.

"While most transition programs focus only on job skills and college-readiness, Momentum Transition does that and more. Students graduate with job skills, study skills, and connections. They develop the self-esteem, self-reliance, and self-confidence they need to solve problems, communicate effectively, and flourish," said Dr. Steven Morse, Superintendent.



## “GO PLAY CAMPAIGN” BUILDS NEW PLAYGROUND

The outdoor playground at GPA serves a higher purpose than most. For many students, safe outdoor physical activity is a crucial part of their school day and social/emotional learning.

"One-on-one with a teacher or social worker, a visit to the playground helps a student take respite, calm themselves, and process difficult situations," said Audra Snyder, Director of Social Work Services. "In supervised small groups, the playground becomes an outdoor 'classroom' for students to use new social skills and build and maintain relationships."

Last spring, GPA set out to raise \$50,000 for a significant renovation to the playground, with modern, engaging equipment that meets all contemporary accessibility and safety requirements. The effort also impacts the local community, as the playground is available to neighborhood children and their families.

Want to support the effort? Learn more at <https://garfieldparkacademy.org/gpas-go-play-capital-campaign/>

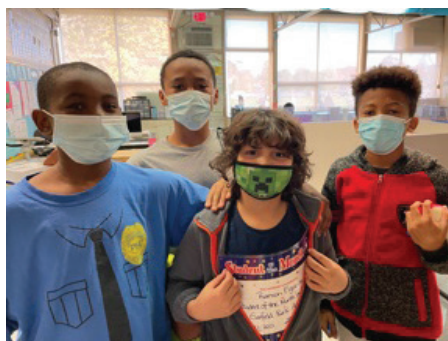


24 Glenolden Lane  
Willingboro, NJ 08046

Middle States Association Accredited  
Teaching-Family Association Accredited

## Education... *for a Lifetime*

Even protective face coverings cannot hide the pride and excitement of our students of the month! Each classroom celebrates the achievements and efforts of its students by selecting a student of the month, recognizing improvements in academics, attendance, behavior, social engagement and other goals related to their IEP.



### **The Training Institute at Garfield Park Academy**

Learn more, call 609-877-4111.

Or visit The Training Institute online:

[GarfieldParkAcademy.org/the-training-institute-gpa/](http://GarfieldParkAcademy.org/the-training-institute-gpa/)



Garfield Park Academy is a New Jersey state-approved, not-for-profit school that provides effective, evidence-based special education services for students in grades K-12 who have a history of learning, social, emotional and behavioral challenges. Garfield Park Academy is accredited by the Middle States Association and accredited by the Teaching-Family Association. For more information, please contact Garfield Park Academy or visit our website.

Garfield Park Academy  
24 Glenolden Lane  
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