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AUGUST 2022

NEW BUILDING



The 2022-23 school year is upon us and West40 is excited to open the doors to our new building in Maywood. The property at 415 West Lexington Street is centrally-located for all member school districts and will offer a secure and caring learning atmosphere for Regional Safe School Program students.

We have renovated classrooms at the former Lexington Elementary to create an environment that students will look forward to coming to each day. The building is also home to our Heart 2 Heart store, where West40 families can shop for free clothing, furniture, and other household items.

Beginning in early 2023, it is expected that West40 staff members will move from the current office in Hillside to Lexington as we continue our mission to fill gaps to support the education system and seek to improve peoples’ lives.

West40’s purchase of the building allows us to better invest our resources toward the students and organizations that we support and we are proud to continue Lexington’s reputation of educating future leaders.

NEW SERVICES



West40 remains dedicated to supporting school districts with their special education and mental health services and this year we have expanded our resources to help educators give hope to students and promote their success.

Specialized Support Services by West40 focuses on behavioral support, social and emotional learning, English learning and special education. Director Nicole Pieranunzi and her team of caring experts provide coaching, training and personalized planning to teachers and administrators to deliver measurable results.

To learn more, contact [Nicole.Pieranunzi](mailto:Nicole.Pieranunzi@west40.org), Director of Special Education.

“We want educators to feel supported and know that they have a partner alongside them, so they can go further.”

- Nicole Pieranunzi,
Director of Special Education

Additionally, West40 envisions offering future services that will help community members get support in the areas of legal, housing, employment, medical, mental health, and financial assistance. By eliminating barriers to life’s most essential needs, we can help make a difference.

NEW WEST40 TEAM MEMBERS

As the needs and demands of students and education professionals evolve, West40 must evolve with them. Therefore, West40 is increasing its staff and growing from within to meet the demand! We now have the following to offer in the new school year:

- More advocates to walk side-by-side with students and guide them to success
- More professional learning experts to consult teachers and administrators
- More public outreach capacities to highlight student and teacher achievements
- More higher education and business partnerships to serve West40 community members

These additions further reinforce West40’s commitment to meet you where you are, be what you need, walk further with you and stand strong with you.

A MESSAGE FROM MARK

Hello Colleagues, Friends, Family Members.

We see the new school year on the horizon! Do you “feel” the shimmer of shiny and new? Every new school year brings new things and new adventures. We, at West40, love being part of this amazing anticipation. Each year we start our year with the Backpack Giveback event, where we distribute 3,000 new backpacks filled with school supplies to West40 students.

But this year, we have much more “new” to celebrate. West40 is moving to Maywood. We have spent the summer renovating the instructional wing of our new home for our Safe School. We have created a state-of-the-art, respectful center for learning and teaching. Over the next year, we will continue to update the remainder of the building to house the rest of our operations.

As a community, we have been through a couple of indescribable years and survived, endured, and conquered. It is exciting to look forward and embrace the possibilities and the plans for a shiny and new future. In West40, we believe every student deserves the best opportunities to succeed and follow their dreams.

We are here to partner, assist, lead and collaborate with our partners to build the best futures possible. Please let us know how we can serve you best in our journey toward a shiny and new future!

Dr. Mark A. Klaisner
President, IARSS
Executive Director, West40 ISC #2

- LICENSE RENEWAL REMINDER
 - For professional licenses due to renew by June 30, 2022, please renew by August 31, 2022. Otherwise, your license will lapse September 1. Please visit www.west40.org or email licensure@west40.org for more information.
- ARE YOU OR SOMEONE YOU KNOW INTERESTED IN A SHORT TERM SUBSTITUTE LICENSE?
 - The next training date will be virtual on Aug. 17 from 12:30pm- 3:30pm. For more information: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/short-term-substitute-teacher-training-tickets-262657986107?aff=ebdsoporgprofile>

3,000+ STUDENTS EQUIPPED FOR SCHOOL

We are grateful to have community partners who helped provide over 3,000 backpacks stocked with supplies to area students during our annual Backpack Giveback event on August 6!

SUPPORTING MORE EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS

West40 student advocates are now in more than half of the school districts we represent and in all of the high schools.

We love sharing stories of how lives have been changed in partnership with your school or district.

Want to join us in inspiring others? [Please send your story our way.](#)

