



CITY OF NEWBURGH

City Council
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April 18, 2013

Board of Education
Newburgh Enlarged City School District
124 Grand Street
Newburgh, NY 12550

Dear NECSD Board of Education Members:

As the Mayor and City Council of the City of Newburgh, we are deeply concerned with the proposed closing of Horizons on the Hudson Magnet School.

The children of the City of Newburgh have been learning in schools at the same location since 1796, when the Academy was created on this site overlooking the river. More than two centuries later, there is still a school on Montgomery Street, and we would like it to remain where it is.

Horizons on the Hudson Magnet School is an anchor in our East End historic district and a reminder of a tradition of centrally-located education that has survived the challenges of more than two centuries, including Urban Renewal. Today, Horizons not only holds a unique status as an authorized International Baccalaureate World School, but it also boasts innovative programs such as Unlimited Horizons for gifted and talented students. At a time when we are struggling to attract new families and businesses to the area, the impact of losing this school will be devastating and crippling to our revitalization efforts.

We are also concerned that five of the last six schools closed by the Newburgh Board of Education were in the economically-challenged City of Newburgh where the majority of the population is Latino and African American. We trust you will make the correct and fair decision and keep Horizons on the Hudson School open for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Mayor Judy Kennedy

Councilman Curlie Dillard

Deputy Mayor Regina Angelo

Councilman Cedric Brown

Councilwoman Gay Lee