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**For Immediate Release**

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**Pittsburgh Public Schools Invites Students and Community to  
Help Name New Summer Camp for Students in Grades 6-8**

*District to Hold Pre-Bid Conference for Activities Providers August 25, 2009*

PITTSBURGH August 24, 2009 – Pittsburgh Public Schools is inviting its students and community to help name the District’s exciting new summer camp that will launch in 2010 for students currently in grades fifth, sixth and seventh. This is the first time a summer camp will be provided exclusively for middle grades students. The camp is part of the continued district-wide effort to prepare students for the rigors of high school and beyond. This new exciting summer camp will be funded by Stimulus Funds the District will receive as a part of The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA). Signed into law on February 17, 2009, ARRA recognizes that strategic investments in education are one of the best ways to help America become more productive and competitive over the long haul.

Committed to ensuring that all District students are Promise-Ready and able to receive scholarships through The Pittsburgh Promise®, the District will use the funds received from the ARRA to mount a focused and intense effort on increasing the literacy skills of its middle grades students.

“To be Promise-Ready students must first be high school ready,” said Roosevelt. “This new summer program will give us the necessary extra time we need to build on our work to increase the literacy skills of our middle grades students.” Roosevelt continued, “We are calling this summer camp because students will have fun as they develop their academic and non-academic strengths.”

Campers will participate in daily literacy instruction, while every afternoon have the exciting opportunity to engage in extracurricular activities made possible by partnerships with local Pittsburgh organizations. The morning and afternoon activities will be infused with themes meant to broaden students’ exposure to the community and world around them.

In addition to the summer camp, in order to invest in middle-grades literacy the District hopes to use stimulus dollars to build the capacity of teachers and school staff to provide interventions for struggling readers. Planning is difficult as the District has yet to receive any of the anticipated stimulus dollars but remains committed to its middle years focus.

***Students and Community Invited to Help the District Name New Middle Grades Summer Camp***

Beginning now through September 11, 2009 students can submit suggestions for the official camp name by visiting the District website. The name should capture the spirit of summer fun and encompass themes such as literacy, high school readiness, dreaming big and working hard. To submit suggestions for the official summer camp name, please fill out the survey on the District website at [www.pps.k12.pa.us/NamingContest](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/NamingContest).

After all student submissions are collected on September 11, a committee will select the top three names for a final round of voting to be held from September 21 – October 1. During this final round, all students and the community are invited to select their top pick by visiting the District website [www.pps.k12.pa.us](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us). Finally, on October 15, 2009 the winner of the naming contest will be announced. The student with the winning submission will have the honor of his or her selected camp name advertised throughout the District and community.

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***Pre-Bid Conference for Interested Activity Providers***

The District is also now asking local Pittsburgh organizations to submit proposals to lead and facilitate daily activities for the new summer middle-grades camp. Activities Providers submitting a proposal must demonstrate an outstanding commitment to students in grades 6-8 and have the interest and capacity to provide students with unique summer activities such as kayaking, ceramics, drama, debate, urban gardening, and more. Providers will be expected to provide activities to students every afternoon Monday – Friday during this exciting 2010 summer program. To download the Request for Proposal (RFP) document or for more information visit [www.pps.k12.pa.us/summerprogramrfp](http://www.pps.k12.pa.us/summerprogramrfp).

An optional Pre-Bid Conference will be held for any local organization interested in partnering with the District for this exciting new program. The conference will be held on August 25, 2009, 4:30-6 p.m. at the District's administration building located at 341 S. Bellefield Avenue, Pittsburgh. Selection of organizations will be made based on proposals and possibly interviews if needed. Proposals must be submitted by October 2, 2009.

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