Keystone Academy Charter School
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Dear Parents and Guardians,

Following the large gatherings of young people in Center City over Labor Day weekend, Keystone Academy Charter School and the Philadelphia Police Department are asking parents and guardians to remain aware of their children's whereabouts and activities, particularly after school dismissal and when gathering with friends in busy public spaces.

We have also seen similar concerns during school dismissal, when some students are not heading home or to their intended destination after leaving school, but instead are remaining in large groups or traveling to other locations to gather. We ask parents and guardians to know their children's plans after school, where they are going, and who they are with.

Large, impromptu gatherings organized through social media continue to create safety concerns, disrupt businesses and public spaces, and, in some cases, lead to criminal activity and arrests. These gatherings are not unique to Philadelphia, and cities across the country have experienced similar incidents involving large groups of young people.

Over Labor Day weekend, some gatherings in Center City resulted in fights, blocked streets and traffic, and other disorderly behavior. A Philadelphia Police sergeant was also assaulted.
The Philadelphia Police Department will continue to maintain a presence in these areas to help ensure the safety of residents, visitors, businesses, and young people themselves. Students who engage in unlawful behavior may be subject to police enforcement actions, including arrest.

We encourage families to speak with their children about making safe and responsible decisions, avoiding disruptive gatherings, and understanding the real consequences that can result from impulsive behavior.

Working together, families, schools, community partners, and law enforcement can help ensure Philadelphia's young people are able to spend time with friends and enjoy their city safely and responsibly.

Thank you for your continued partnership in keeping our students and communities safe.

Dr. Claudia Lyles
Keystone Academy Charter School/CEO

Kevin J. Bethel
Police Commissioner