

On behalf of the Midtown Community School Initiative, we want to thank you for your patience and support as we work together to increase quality education options for Midtown. We have exciting news!

As you know, we issued an RFP last fall soliciting school partners with the capacity and willingness to run a high-quality elementary school serving families in Midtown. Because of your enthusiasm and support, we received three responses from organizations who all expressed how impressed they were by our community's willingness to work together to improve school options. Many told us that this level of support and engagement from parents and neighbors is unprecedented!

We spent several months thoroughly evaluating each of the three responses. We researched best practices, spent countless hours pouring over response documents, and met extensively with each respondent. Through it all, we kept you - our community - at the forefront of our minds.

And now... We're excited to recommend that the Midtown Community School Initiative partner with the successful national charter school organization Citizens of the World Charter Schools.

When we first reviewed the 200-page proposal that Citizens of the World submitted in response to our RFP, we were blown away by how closely their values and curriculum align with our goals. From the creation of diverse learning environments, to a commitment to the local community, to a focus on student achievement, Citizens of the World is an education partner that Midtown can be proud of.

In their own words: "The mission of Citizens of the World Charter Schools is to create a national network of high-achieving, community-based public schools that reflect the abundant socioeconomic, racial and cultural diversity of their surroundings. Our schools exemplify an intellectually challenging, experiential learning environment that develops each student's abilities, confidence, and sense of responsibility for themselves and their community. In this spirit, we work conscientiously to build strong communities both within and outside the classroom."

Citizens of the World has [accepted](#) our invitation to partner. They will spend 2014 meeting with and learning from Kansas City families and organizations to evaluate the feasibility of a school launch here. Please look for emails from us including ways to interact with Citizens of the World and opportunities for increased involvement as we all work together to make this vision a reality. In the meantime, you can learn more about Citizens of the World through their websites: <http://www.cwc-kansascity.org> and <http://www.citizensoftheworld.org/FAQ>.

It is because of your support and interest that we were able to attract a national organization like Citizens of the World to Kansas City, and we'll need your continued support as we move forward. Together, we will increase quality school options for families living in Midtown.