

“Improving Communities...Changing Lives”

Universal Companies is in the business of helping people. Our mission is to create educational, cultural and entrepreneurial opportunities that will break the cycle of generational poverty within historically disenfranchised communities.

To accomplish this, Universal focuses on the identification and removal of systemic barriers to wealth creation within urban settings. We are committed to a comprehensive approach to neighborhood revitalization that embraces education as its foundation for economic transformation. Universal works in collaboration with community stakeholders to create an environment where all children are achieving academically, socially, and emotionally at high levels. We have maintained a proven track record of turning around under-achieving schools since 1999.

UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS

Universal Bluford Charter School

5720 Media Street
215-581-5502
Raymond Ragland, Principal

Universal Daroff Charter School

5630 Vine Street
215-471-2905
Anna Smith, Principal

Universal Institute Charter School

801 So. 15th Street
215-732-7988
John Walker, Principal

Universal Vare Charter Middle School

2100 S. 24th Street
215-952-8611
Sharon Nurse, Principal

Universal Audenried Charter High School

3301 Tasker Street
215-952-4801
Robert Rouse, Principal

Universal Companies

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**UNIVERSAL
COMPANIES**

*Discover the Universal Way
for a Quality Education*



EDUCATIONAL MISSION

Universal Companies (Universal) mission is to provide an unparalleled high quality education to all students in a safe and nurturing environment. Through the implementation of Universal's comprehensive academic and social program, we will build future community leaders and positive contributing members of society. Universal seeks to utilize the school as a key element and a hub for the surrounding community to help in the transformation of the neighborhoods while fostering a strong partnership between its employees, students, families, businesses and other constituents.

EDUCATIONAL VISION

Universal believes that all children can learn and the alarming achievement and opportunity gap that currently exists for our children and our communities can be eliminated. By cultivating their ability to be critical thinkers who hypothesize, investigate, develop solutions and use technology for learning, Universal is preparing all of our children to compete in the global economy. Universal will make our schools world-class learning facilities for both children and adults and become an exemplary learning community that supports innovation and is committed to enhancing civic responsibility, social justice and moral leadership.

CORE BELIEFS

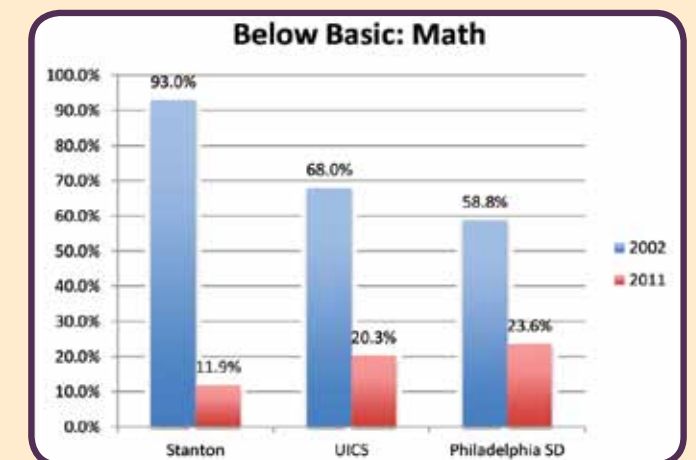
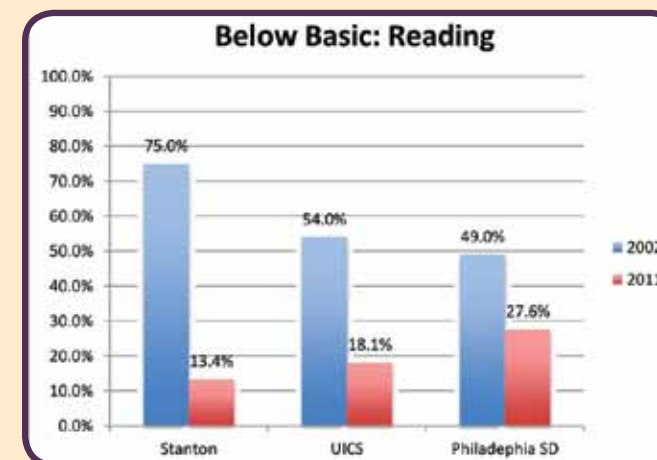
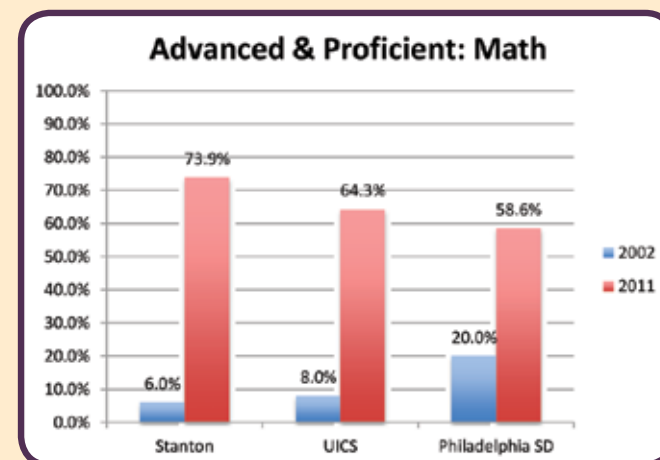
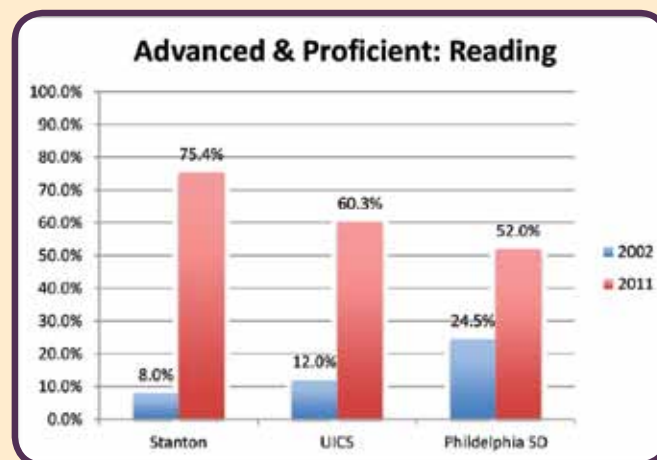
- All children can and will learn at or above grade level
- The achievement and opportunity gap can and will be eliminated
- All children can and will become leaders in our community
- All schools can and will be a safe and nurturing environment, a place where everyone is valued and respected
- Our parents are an essential partner in their children's educational journey
- We strive to achieve absolute customer satisfaction

UNIVERSAL EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

Universal believes that every teacher should be an instructional leader in and out of the classroom. We offer:

- Three Assistant Principal Model
- Academic Coaches/Peer Coaching
- Teacher Content Institute which offers ongoing professional development in the content areas of math, literacy, science, social studies, and technology assisted education
- New teachers support which provides mentoring, best teaching practices, classroom organization and management
- Zero period daily meetings for all faculty

UNIVERSAL FAMILY OF SCHOOLS AND PHILADELPHIA SCHOOL DISTRICT 2002-2011 GROWTH



Advanced/Proficient – MATH			Advanced/Proficient – READING		
	2010	2011		2010	2011
Bluford	24.5%	27.0%	Bluford	17.7%	21.8%
Daroff	35.9%	39.6%	Daroff	24.2%	31.9%
Phila. District	56.3%	58.6%	Phila. District	50.0%	52.0%

Below Basic – MATH			Below Basic – READING		
	2010	2011		2010	2011
Bluford	49.0%	47.1%	Bluford	58.0%	54.9%
Daroff	50.7%	38.2%	Daroff	51.6%	39.6%
Phila. District	25.3%	23.6%	Phila. District	29.5%	27.6%

UNIVERSAL FAMILY AND STUDENT RESOURCE CENTER

To support and raise academic achievement, Universal instituted the Family and Student Resource Center (FSRC) at each school which centralizes all non-education activities and resources. The FSRC serves students, parents/guardians, and community residents, offering academic interventions, mentoring, counseling, and referral services. Additionally, case managers recognize key indicators of crisis that could limit student achievement such as chronic lateness, truancy, behavioral issues, incomplete uniforms, etc. This determines which types of support a student and his/her family can benefit from before barriers escalate to crisis levels. Lastly, the Center supports school climate and culture while providing community outreach to extend services to the public in areas of job training, financial literacy and budgeting education, preventative health, affordable housing, rentals, homeownership, and more.

WRITING AS LEARNING PROGRAM

This instructional strategy assists students to develop writing skills across all subject areas emphasizing reading and mathematics. Teachers implement the highly effective writing program in all grades. Students are provided a transition word guide and writing and math checklists for use at home and in class across all content areas.

HEALTH & WELLNESS

Universal understands that true quality-of-life enhancement stems from the health and welfare of the individuals residing in a community. We're committed to infusing health consciousness into our schools and local neighborhoods. For over fifteen years, Universal has partnered with wellness organizations to provide preventative health education to children and adults. Programs include health fairs, screenings, workshops, cooking demonstrations, and fitness classes offered at no cost to the public. Additionally, we produce out-of-school-time programs for adolescents that teach the importance of maintaining mental, physical and spiritual well-being.

EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

- Academics focused on STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Math) and Writing as Learning
- Personal education plan for each student
- Free complete uniform for each student
- African-American and cultural studies which foster cultural competence
- Home links/standardized homework
- Smarty cards test prep
- Partnership driven extra-curricular activities such as jazz ensemble, African dance & drumming, writing workshops, urban gardening club and robotics
- Athletics such as basketball, cheerleading, dance team, lacrosse, volleyball, and wrestling
- Extended day services/after school programs provide opportunities for additional and accelerated instructional support beyond the school day (Supplemental Education Services (SES), Saturday School, and After School)