

DAN LAZAR, GREENFIELD SCHOOL PRINCIPAL
2017 RECIPIENT OF
LENORA BERSON COMMUNITY SERVICE AWARD

Though a Bostonian by birth and still a rabid Red Sox and Patriots fan, Dan Lazar has been Greenfield's principal since 2009, when it had only 472 students. Over the past eight years, in particularly trying times for the School District, he has worked with his staff and parents to create a school that welcomes the neighborhood and provides a rigorous education. Notable achievements include an overhaul of the entire math and literacy curriculums, and the incorporation of specific cultural activities in grades 3-8: dance exchange (3rd); exploring Phila. history through historic homes (4th); ballroom dancing (5th); Arabic drumming (6th); hip hop dancing (7th); and residency with Phila. Shakespeare Theatre (8th). As a result, the school has grown each year to its current enrollment of 630 students. And, it is widely recognized as one of the top K-8 schools in Philadelphia, helping to make our neighborhood a particularly attractive location for families. Lazar received his BA from Vassar College, a Teaching Certificate from UC Berkeley, and a Masters in Education and Doctorate of Education from the Univ. of Pennsylvania.

In 1954, CCRA and a group of parents pressured the Board of Education to open an elementary school in Center City West. The "City Center School" resided in the YWCA at 2027 Chestnut through 1960, when it was moved to the Jerrold Electronics Building at 23rd and Chestnut until a new school could be erected. Construction of that school began in 1966, and its doors opened in 1970. As recounted in the June 1997 *CCRA News*: "The beautiful Albert M. Greenfield School . . . is a tribute to years of cooperation among CCRA, parents, and a host of hard working officers of the Home and School Association. It is also a tribute to the Bd. of Ed. who, in its wisdom, understood that a qualified public school was crucial to the renaissance taking place in Center City."