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Michelle Ciccone
George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academies
mciccone@phalenacademies.org

PLA Partners with IU Health and KaBOOM! to Build New Playground

Indianapolis, Indiana – The George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy (PLA) is building a new playground that will be open to PLA scholars, children from the Meridian Highland Neighborhood, and children from all across Indianapolis. PLA’s playground is funded by IU Health, one of the nation’s top health care networks and committed to reducing the rate of childhood obesity, and KaBOOM!, a national nonprofit that funds community play spaces.

“This is not just a playground,” said Ron Stiver, senior vice president of engagement and public affairs for IU Health. “IU Health has a long-standing commitment to promoting healthier lifestyles among our youth and working to ensure they have access to a top-quality education. This new playground is further demonstration of our commitment, as it will support the education of Phalen Leadership Academy scholars during the school day, and also provide a safe place for children in the neighborhood to play and stay active after school hours.”

This new playground will be built on PLA school grounds at 2323 North Illinois Street in Indianapolis. The playground will be built across two days – Thursday, October 10th, and Wednesday, October 11th – and will be constructed by parent volunteers, IU Health employees, and other volunteers from across the community. Breakfast and lunch will be provided on both days by neighbor businesses Pancake House, Jimmy John’s, and Chick-fil-A.

“The George and Veronica Phalen Leadership Academy is honored to receive this wonderful addition to our school that would not have been possible without such a strong commitment from IU Health and KaBOOM!” said Jeremy Baugh, founding principal at Phalen. “The entire community will benefit from the new playground project for many years to come.”

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Building on the scientifically validated model and successful track record of Summer Advantage USA, the Phalen Leadership Academy (PLA) will work to ensure all scholars meet high academic and social standards, and thrive as leaders at home, in their communities and in the world.