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Contact: Julia Bowen, Executive Director
Berkshire Arts & Technology Charter Public School

Phone: 413-743-7311, x120

Fax: 413-743-7327

Website: www.bartcharter.org

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BART

1 Commercial Street
P.O. Box 267
Adams, MA 01220

www.bartcharter.org

t 413 743 7311

f 413 743 7327

BART Charter Public School Announces Ribbon Cutting Ceremony

On Wednesday, February 25th at 8:30am, BART will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony in celebration of the grand opening of their newly built addition. A reception in the new space will follow the brief outdoor ceremony. The public is welcomed and asked to RSVP at [this link](#). Any questions should be directed to Leah Thompson at leah.thompson@bartcharter.org or at 413-743-7311 ext. 168.

“We are pleased to share this new addition with the community, though we are most excited to share it with the students. They absolutely deserve this!” said executive director Julia Bowen.

The architects, contractors and laborers have been working on this project since the May 2014 groundbreaking. This will be the first time that BART students have a gymnasium for fitness classes, a designated area for eating lunch and a stage for performances. The additional 10,000 square feet will also help to relieve some of the space constraints as the enrollment at BART climbs to over 340 students.

Because BART is a public charter school it does not receive state or local funding and so the \$4.6 million dollar project was funded through grants, commercial loans and private donations. When bids came in higher than expected, some of the original aspects of the project had to be delayed due to budgetary restrictions. For example, the building will open without finished flooring in some areas; auditorium seating still needs to be funded. “While more fundraising to finish the space is necessary, we would like to once again thank the generous individuals and foundations whose contributions made this project a reality. Their support has been incredible,” said Bowen.

About BART

BART is a nationally recognized, award-winning, tuition-free public middle and high school focused on preparing students for college. One hundred percent of BART’s graduates have passed a college course and have been accepted into college prior to graduation. BART does not discriminate in admission to, access to, treatment in, or employment in its services, programs or activities, on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, disability, gender identity, sexual orientation, homelessness or age.