



**Lindley Academy Charter School, State Rep. Darisha Parker, GDI Facility Services Inc. and LandCare Unveil Community Vegetable Garden Promoting Food Equity and Nutrition**

*Philadelphia fifth-grade students learn about agriculture, healthy eating and food access through new school garden*

**PHILADELPHIA, PA (June 16, 2026)** — Lindley Academy Charter School, State Representative Darisha Parker's office, GDI Facility Services Inc. and LandCare unveiled a new community vegetable garden at Lindley's campus, creating a hands-on learning space designed to teach students in grades K-8 about agriculture, healthy eating and equitable access to nutritious food.

Following the unveiling, fifth-grade students participated in an educational lesson about agriculture and nutrition, connecting classroom learning to the new garden and giving students a firsthand look at how fruits and vegetables grow.

"Giving scholars the tools to plant, grow and learn from their own campus garden helps them build healthy habits and fosters a connection to their community," said Margery Covello, CEO of Lindley Academy Charter School. "We're proud to bring this resource to our students and the Lindley community, and grateful to State Rep Parker and our partners for making it possible."

Through generous support and resources from Rep. Parker, GDI Land Services Inc. and LandCare, the garden will serve as a resource for the Lindley community while helping students build a deeper understanding of food, health and sustainability. The planting followed a November 2025 effort to clear and prepare the field, and students participated in a hands-on learning moment as volunteers planted vegetables.

"As a member of the House Agriculture & Rural Affairs Committee, I know the many benefits of teaching students about gardening. When students see the seed they planted grow into a full vegetable, it's exciting for them, it teaches them about science and responsibility, and it encourages them to live a more sustainable lifestyle," Parker said. "I'm proud of the students at Lindley Academy and look forward to visiting their blossoming garden."

The event was led by Kathleen Albertson, Director of Client Relations for GDI Integrated Facility Services. "At GDI, volunteerism is more than service—it is leadership, compassion, and the power of people coming together to make a difference," said Albertson.



The garden supports Lindley's role as a community-centered school, where learning extends beyond the classroom and partnerships help meet the needs of families in the surrounding neighborhood. Photos from the unveiling can be found [here](#).

### **About American Paradigm Schools**

American Paradigm Schools (APS) is a nonprofit charter management organization that supports and serves four charter schools in North and Northeast Philadelphia. These schools are: First Philadelphia Preparatory Charter School; Lindley Academy Charter School; Memphis Street

Academy; and Tacony Academy Charter School. For more information, visit [www.ap-schools.org](http://www.ap-schools.org).

American Paradigm Schools are dedicated to equity and excellence for all learners, while celebrating the uniqueness of our communities. Our values drive our dedication to providing a world class education.

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