

# ***MEDIA***



# ***ADVISORY***

**Mr. Paymon Rouhanifard  
State District Superintendent**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

October 7, 2013

**Contact: Marlene V. Coleman  
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Before 4:00 p.m.**

**PHASE I COMPLETION OF CAMDEN HIGH SCHOOL ATHLETIC  
FIELD REJUVENATION PROJECT RIBBON CUTTING  
CEREMONY OCTOBER 11<sup>th</sup>**

**CAMDEN, NJ** - On Friday, October 11, 2013, beginning at 5:00 p.m., the Camden City School District will hold a Ribbon Cutting and Field Dedication ceremony for the Camden High School Athletic Field, 1968 Park Boulevard, Camden, New Jersey. The theme "Friday Night Lights," will focus on the completion of Phase 1 of the field rejuvenation project which began after the groundbreaking on May 13, 2013. State District Superintendent Paymon Rouhanifard will be joined by Camden's Mayor Dana Redd, Advisory Board Member Sara T. Davis, members of the "We Can Do This" committee, the Philadelphia Eagles Foundation and the US Soccer Foundation, for the official ribbon cutting.

Starting at 4:00 p.m. the Camden High School "Mighty Panthers" Marching Band, drill team, cheerleaders and other community sponsors will march from the high school, down Baird Boulevard, past Farnham Park, and onto the Camden High School Athletic Field to signal the beginning of the ceremonies. *"The ribbon cutting and dedication ceremony will mark an historic event for our district, the City of Camden, and more importantly, the Camden High Football Team,"* states Superintendent Rouhanifard. *"Phase I of the rejuvenation project is only the beginning of what we anticipate for a sports complex that will cater to the youth of Camden."*

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## **ADD 1**

At 6:00 p.m. the Camden High School Panthers Football team will take the field for the first time this season to play their first Friday night game under the newly lighted field against Cumberland.

*“I am extremely thrilled that our Camden High School students will now have a brand new athletic field,”* Mayor Redd said. *“Our students deserve the very best and I was proud to be able to provide \$200,000 of City funds to ensure this project remained on track and not delayed. I remain committed to working with the Camden City School District and the ‘We Can Do This’ committee to seek additional funds for the second improvement phase of the athletic field.”*

Phase II of the Rejuvenation of the Camden High Athletic Field and complex includes construction of a new club house, a concession stand, press box, bleachers, a scoreboard and improvements to the field exterior.

In 2010 the Camden City School District Advisory Board formed the “We Can Do This! With a little help from our Friends,” Committee to spearhead the rejuvenation of the Camden High Athletic Field and facilities project. Since its formation, a partnership between the City of Camden, the County of Camden, and the Camden Community embarked on a challenging mission to secure funding to transform the field and its facilities to provide a safe and functional athletic complex for the youth. It is through these combined efforts that grants were secured from the US Soccer Foundation, the NFL Grassroots Field Grant Program, the City of Camden, and the Camden County Board of Chosen Freeholders that the rejuvenation project began.

### **Camden High School Athletic Field History**

Located in the Parkside section of Camden and only two blocks from the Camden High School Campus on Baird and Park Boulevards, the athletic field includes a football field, baseball field, a tennis court, a track, and bleachers. The outdated field house on the grounds contains restrooms and a concession stand. Built in the 1940’s, the field had deteriorated over the years negatively affecting the morale of high school athletes and youth teams that use the field throughout the year.