



# Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School

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To whom it may concern,

My name is Naaman Schlegel, Principal at Brigadier General Anna Mae Hays Elementary School, the new elementary school at 12<sup>th</sup> and Gordon. I had the privilege of being involved first hand with the Public Art and Activation Program that worked to turn a bare side of a building into a beautiful piece of art. I was not involved in the project when they selected and procured the space, but I was excited to learn that they selected a site near the newly built, Hays Elementary. The committee reached out to me to ask a few questions about the new school. It was in this conversation where the theme "Life-long love for learning, Reading is a Portal" of the mural was born.

Once the mural was completed, a few different programs were held with our students and families about the new, beautiful upgrade to the community. We held a virtual family and community engagement event that featured the mural and had the students and families painting their own "murals" at home. In addition, our Art teacher taught a unit about the mural, differentiating for all grade levels that included an interview with the artist! Through this very unusual academic year, students coming to the school for food, materials, or technology have looked up in amazement at the freshly painted mural.

This mural, and the entire experience would not have been possible without the Materials Conservation contract as well as the Public Art and Activation Program here in the beautiful city of Allentown. If you wish to discuss this any further please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

*Naaman Schlegel*

Naaman Schlegel  
Principal  
Brig. Gen. Anna Mae Hays Elementary School

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**One Community. One School. One Team. One Goal.**