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Gemma Services Awarded Funding for Track and Field Construction at Its Martin Luther School

PLYMOUTH MEETING, Pa. (July 20, 2026) – Gemma Services today announced that it has received \$250,000 in Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program (RACP) funding to construct a multipurpose turf athletic field and short track at its Martin Luther School campus on Butler Pike in Whitemarsh Township.

“Physical education and recreation are vital to our students’ well-being,” said Kristen Gay, Ph.D., President and CEO of Gemma Services, which includes Martin Luther School. “We’re grateful to Senator Hughes and Representative Daley for supporting this project. It will allow us to expand athletic and recreational programs that strengthen students’ academic growth while helping them build confidence, teamwork, collaboration, and emotional regulation skills.”

“Martin Luther School is an essential lifeline for families across our region,” said Senator Vincent Hughes. “I am proud to champion this project that will uplift children, empower families, and strengthen the school community.”

The Butler Pike property, which Gemma acquired in 2024 and received zoning board approval to operate a school on the property, lacks the outdoor recreation and sports facilities to support a comprehensive health and physical education curriculum and expanded opportunities for athletic participation. The awarded funding will be used to install a multipurpose turf field, a short track, bleachers, associated field equipment, and onsite ADA accessibility enhancements.

“Movement, play, and recreation are essential to learning,” said Representative Mary Jo Daley. “Having dedicated space for athletics and physical activity will only enhance these students’ ability to succeed.”

About Martin Luther School - Martin Luther School (MLS) is an Approved Private School that provides holistic educational programs with social, emotional, behavioral, and learning support for students in grades K-12.

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Offering a comprehensive curriculum with a strong literacy focus, MLS serves students referred from more than 50 school districts and charter schools throughout the Greater Philadelphia region. MLS will open the school year at its new campus on Butler Pike in Whitemarsh Township, which features a renovated school building with bright, modern classrooms and a spacious setting offering ample learning opportunities both inside and outside the classroom. More info is available about the school at www.martinlutherschool.org.

About Gemma Services - Gemma Services is a Pennsylvania-based nonprofit guided by the vision of a world where every person knows they matter. Formed in 2019 by the merger of two long-standing Philadelphia-area nonprofits, each with roots dating to the 1800s, Gemma accompanies more than 3,000 youth and families each year through a range of behavioral health, child welfare, and prevention programs, as well as its Martin Luther School. With four locations in the Greater Philadelphia region, Gemma's mission is to accompany people of all ages through life challenges using individualized, data-informed support. For more information, visit www.gemmaservices.org.

Pennsylvania's Office of the Budget administers the Redevelopment Assistance Capital Program to support regional economic, cultural, civic, and historical improvement projects.

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