



MEDIA ALERT
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Life Pieces To Masterpieces to Lead “Lights On Afterschool” at Flagship Celebration in DC with U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Dr. Cindy Marten

WASHINGTON (Oct. 19, 2023) – On Thursday, Oct. 26, Life Pieces To Masterpieces (LPTM) will underscore the significance of afterschool programs by hosting the national DC *Lights On Afterschool* celebration. It aligns with a national movement that is bringing one million people to more than 8,000 *Lights On Afterschool* events throughout the month. LPTM’s October 26th event has been selected as the flagship national *Lights On Afterschool* event.

The celebration at Life Pieces To Masterpieces will commence as students from more than 20 schools arrive starting at 3:15, welcomed with LPTM’s daily ritual of cheers and high-fives.

Guests, including government officials and leaders in the education and youth development fields, will have an opportunity to visit classrooms and participate with LPTM boys and young men, as young as age three, as they study and practice STEM (science, technology, engineering and math), arts, literacy, and more in an “each one teach one” mentoring environment.

The highlight of the celebration takes place in the Drew ES gymnasium from 5 - 6 p.m. with a special meal, youth performances, and distinguished speakers, including LPTM youth, alumni, and esteemed guests. Speakers for the event include the U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education, Dr. Cindy Marten; DC Public Schools Chancellor Dr. Lewis Ferebee; and Afterschool Alliance Executive Director Jodi Grant. Additionally, representatives from the DC Office of the Deputy Mayor for Education, the Office of the State Superintendent of Education, and leaders from the national afterschool and mentoring fields will attend and participate in the celebration.

Life Pieces To Masterpieces provides opportunities for Black and Brown boys and young men from DC’s most challenged Ward 7 & 8 neighborhoods to express themselves; navigate the challenges in their lives; teach and uplift others as mentors; and contribute positively to their communities. The Afterschool Alliance, which organizes *Lights On Afterschool* nationwide, highlights the importance of investing in afterschool programs, which play a pivotal role in helping students succeed in school and in life.

Join us in celebrating the brilliance of afterschool programs and the potential they unlock for youth.

- **What:** Life Pieces To Masterpieces *Lights On Afterschool* Flagship Celebration
- **When:** Thursday, Oct. 26, 2023 from 3:15 - 6:15 p.m. (*special celebration 5:00-6:00 p.m.*)
- **Where:** Drew Elementary, 5600 Eads Street NE, Washington DC 20019
- **Who:** U.S. Deputy Secretary of Education; Dr. Cindy Marten; DC Public Schools (DCPS) Chancellor Dr. Lewis Ferebee; Representatives from the DC Office of Deputy Mayor of Education; the Office of the State Superintendent of Education (OSSE); and leaders from the national afterschool & mentoring fields.