Guide to the
Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander
University of Pennsylvania Partnership School
Records, 1999 - 2005

UPV 501

.25 Cubic ft.

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PROVENANCE

The yearbooks and the closing exercises materials were transferred from The Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School in 2005. The exhibit case material and the miscellaneous articles were created by the University of Pennsylvania Archives in 2002 and 2005.

ARRANGEMENT

The records for the Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School are arranged in five series and include: Closing Exercises (2005), Exhibit Case Text and Notes (2005), Miscellaneous Articles (1999-2005), and Yearbooks (2005). All series are arranged chronologically.
AGENCY HISTORY

The Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School, is informally known as The Penn Alexander School. The school’s namesake, Dr. Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander (1898-1989) earned four degrees from Penn and has the distinction of being both the first African American in the nation to earn a Ph.D. in Economics (1921) and the first African American woman to be admitted to the Pennsylvania Bar (1927), among other achievements.

Initial planning for the school began in June 1998 and it opened its doors in September 2001 in the buildings of the former Philadelphia Divinity School in the 4200 block of Spruce Street in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Designed to serve over 600 West Philadelphia students in grades Pre-Kindergarten through 8, the school provides students with research-based instruction and holds them to high academic standards. The School is unusual in that it is managed by a Governing Board, the members of which are drawn from the School District of Philadelphia, the Philadelphia Federation of Teachers and the University of Pennsylvania.

In addition to its involvement with the governing board, Penn assists this public school in a number of ways. First, Penn contributes $1,000 per student. This contribution enhances the student’s learning experience by keeping their class sizes small. Second, the Penn Graduate School of Education faculty advises the school on curriculum and conducts research to help improve student learning. Third, students receive resources from Penn-affiliated partners such as the University Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology, Annenberg Center for the Performing Arts, and the University Archives and Records Center.
SCOPE AND CONTENT

The Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School records chronicle the stages of the school from its early planning phase in 1999 to the graduation of its first class in 2005.

The closing exercise series (2005) consists of two folders. One folder contains one 2005 closing exercise program and one folder contains one invitation to the 2005 closing exercise program. The exhibit case text series (2002-2005) contains two folders of text, labels, copies of photographs and layout designs for the two display cases inside the school’s lobby. One folder, Sadie T. M. Alexander’s case, relates to the case dedicated to the family history of Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander, the other folder, Raymond P. Alexander’s case, relates to the case dedicated to the family history of Raymond Pace Alexander, Sadie’s husband. In 2002, the University of Pennsylvania Archives created and installed the exhibit for the school’s opening ceremony and updated the exhibit in 2005 for the school’s first closing exercise. The miscellaneous articles series (1999-2005) contains one folder of articles related to the formation of the school, the articles cover the topics of the site selection, naming of the school, school facts and photos of school the first semester it opened. The yearbooks series (2005) contains one folder consisting of two copies of the 2005 yearbook.

RELATED COLLECTIONS


Photos-Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander University of Pennsylvania Partnership School dedication, 2002; Digital Image Collection, images 20021126001; 20021126002; 20021126003; 20021126004 and 20021126005.

Video-Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander Penn-assisted School dedication, 2002; University Film Collection, UPX 11, Box 71.

Plaque and posters-Tribute memorabilia items to President Judith Rodin from the Sadie Alexander School. MEM 200.
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INVENTORY

Closing Exercises
Box 1 FF 1 Closing exercise invitation, 2005
   FF 2 Closing exercise program, 2005

Exhibit Case Text and Notes
FF 3 Sadie T. M. Alexander’s case, 2002-2005
FF 4 Raymond Pace Alexander's case, 2002-2005

Miscellaneous Articles
FF 5 Miscellaneous articles, 1999-2005

Yearbooks
FF 6 Yearbooks (2), 2005