

PHOENIX

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Franklin Police and Fire High School dedicated

CENTRAL PHOENIX — Franklin Police and Fire High School, which will train future firefighters and police officers, was dedicated Thursday.

The school, which opened Oct. 1 at 1645 W. McDowell Road, has 160 juniors and seniors from around the Phoenix Union High School District.

Students travel by bus from other high schools for two hours of instruction each day. Next year, the school will offer all core courses as well as police and firefighter education to freshmen through seniors.

To create the high school, the district renovated a former elementary school built in 1926.

Adam Moreno, who travels from Cesar Chavez High School, wants to become a firefighter.

"It's something that I always wanted to do since I was 8 years old," Moreno said. The campus features forensic labs, a 911-dispatch classroom, and a community room for officers and firefighters.

Former police and fire officials teach the courses, and students have the opportunity to get hands-on training in investigation, evidence-collection and crime-lab work.

Stephanie Ferrera, a senior at Metro Tech High School, said she plans to become an undercover officer busting drug traffickers.

"It's a really good school," Ferrera said in Spanish. "Any public-safety job may be dangerous, but as long as it helps the community. ..."

—Stephanie Sanchez,
Cronkite News Service