

Academy Prep Center of Tampa
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Academy Prep Installs State-Of-The-Art New Synthetic Turf Field Community Creates Green Space for Underserved Youth at Academy Prep

Ybor City, FL – Students, graduates, faculty, and community volunteers came together on Wednesday, July 6th, 2011 to lay the groundwork installation for a state-of-the-art synthetic turf on the grounds of Academy Prep Center of Tampa.

A group of anonymous donors partnered with Innovative Base Technologies, LLC, to make the new recreation and athletic field a possibility at Academy Prep. Currently, students play and practice sports on a field so over-used that much of it has turned to dirt. A durable, long-lasting synthetic turf has long been a dream of the Academy Prep Board of Trustees and staff.

“Synthetic turf entails no maintenance, and we are excited to give our children very safe and beautiful grounds to play on,” said Lincoln Tamayo, Head of School at Academy Prep Center of Tampa.

Academy Prep students, including Boy Scout Troop 100, along with graduates and staff helped install the base system for the new field. It was an opportunity for the students create a lasting legacy for the school – the turf is projected to last for up to 15 years.

“Because of the unique installation methodology we were able to involve the students during certain phases of installation,” said Dave Barlow, president of Innovative Base Technologies. “In essence, UltraBaseSystems allows for community involvement in the construction of the field, creating a real sense of pride by the students in demonstrating the rewards for hard work.”

“I believe this is a perfect message to send to these kids: if you want it, get involved, because with passion and hard work anything is possible,” said Barlow.

Reiterating that message was a surprise visitor who dropped by especially to talk to the students: Santana Dotson, a former defensive lineman for the Super Bowl XXXI Champion Green Bay Packers, and Washington Redskins, who began his career with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in 1992. Founder of the Santana Dotson Foundation, which supports challenged, yet deserving high school students, Mr. Dotson spoke with the students about the importance of giving back to their communities.

The particular turf system product, UltraBaseSystems, installed at Academy Prep is state-of-the-art, and is only the second of its kind to be used in the state. Barlow and UltrabaseSystems have made a previous impression on the Tampa Bay community in a big way. The company, along with partner AstroTurf, built the Tampa Bay Rays spring training field.

“The response from the players, coaches, engineers and field-testing experts world wide has been overwhelming,” Barlow said. “We did exactly what we set out to do, help guide the synthetic turf industry in to the next chapter of field construction.”

For more information on the Academy Prep Center of Tampa, please contact Maggie McClelland, Development Manager, at 813.248.5600 (ext 1138) or 813.486.8107 (cell) or

mmccleland@academyprep.org. Media are invited to attend the field base installation day on July 6th – which will last from 8am-12pm. School officials and trustees will be available for interviews.

The Academy Prep Center of Tampa is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. It is an urban college preparatory middle school whose mission is to inspire and empower students qualifying for need-based scholarships to be future community leaders through a rigorous middle school program coupled with ongoing graduate support. Academy Prep's main building is housed in the historic former V.M Ybor Grammar School building. This original structure was renovated, new buildings were added to the campus grounds, and Academy Prep officially opened in 2003. To learn more information, please visit: www.academyprep.org/tampa

UltraBaseSystems is a product of Innovative Base Technologies, LLC. UltraBaseSystems is a sub-base interlocking panel system which serves as the structure system for synthetic turf fields of all kinds. This quick and easy-to-install system reduces construction and labor costs and offers superior drainage, safer fields with less infill, and installation on almost any pre-existing surface. For more information, please visit: www.ultrabasesystems.com

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