

## Now playing: award-winning film critical of charter schools (18)

The Bethlehem Gadfly Uncategorized March 21, 2019

*(18th in a series on Education and Charter Schools)*

Over a series of posts we've been thinking about charter schools and their place and role in public education in Bethlehem. Thus, this film is timely. And it is also — obviously — critical of charter schools. Probably very one-sided. Gadfly plans to see the film. And hopes some of you can too. It seems a wonderful opportunity to learn. But, as always in Gadville, we try to keep an open mind till we have all the possible information we can.

**"A BEAUTIFUL FILM—TREMENDOUSLY MOVING! ...EVERYONE WHO VALUES DEMOCRATIC EDUCATION NEEDS TO SEE THIS."**

— JONATHAN KOZOL, ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND AUTHOR OF *SAVAGE INEQUALITIES*

A FILM EXPLORING THE REAL COST OF PRIVATIZING  
AMERICA'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS

# BACKPACK FULL OF CASH

NARRATED BY MATT DAMON



### You Are Invited to A Free Screening

presented by BASD Proud Parents and the Bethlehem Area School District

MARCH 21, 6:30pm – 8:00pm NITSCHMANN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Discussion to Follow

“BACKPACK FULL OF CASH” DOCUMENTARY – Narrated by Academy Award-winning actor, Matt Damon, BACKPACK explores the real cost of privatizing America’s public schools. Before the 2016 U.S. presidential election and the appointment of Education Secretary Betsy DeVos, filmmakers Sarah Mondale and Vera Aronow couldn’t have known that the new administration would dramatically shift the national debate about education to the very issues at the heart of their film: charter schools, vouchers and privatization. Now, this

timely new documentary takes viewers into the world of market-based education “reform”.

BACKPACK FULL OF CASH follows the tumultuous 2013-14 school year in Philadelphia and other cities where public education – starved of resources and undermined by privatization – is at risk. The documentary also showcases a model for improving schools – a well-resourced public school system in Union City, New Jersey, where poor kids are getting a high-quality education without charters or vouchers. BACKPACK FULL OF CASH makes the case for public education as a basic civil right. The film features genuine heroes like the principals, teachers, activists, parents and most hearteningly, students who are fighting for their education. Former Assistant Secretary of Education Diane Ravitch, writer David Kirp and policy expert Linda Darling Hammond are among the national thought leaders who provide analysis in the film.