



DEMOCRACY PREP CHARTER SCHOOL

PREPARING STUDENTS IN GRADES 6-12 FOR SUCCESS IN COLLEGE & CITIZENSHIP

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Work Hard. Go to College. Change the World!

*****MEDIA ADVISORY*****

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CONGRESSMAN RANGEL, OLYMPIANS, LOCAL COMMUNITY TO CUT RIBBON ON NEW FACILITY FOR HIGHEST RATED SCHOOL IN CENTRAL HARLEM

Democracy Prep's New Facility for 300 Middle School Students Was Built in Partnership With City's Second Oldest African American Congregation and Local Community Groups.

On **Monday, September 15th at 10:15 a.m.** students, parents, and leaders at Democracy Preparatory Charter School in Harlem will be joined by **Congressman Charles B. Rangel, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Council Member Robert Jackson, Assemblyman Keith Wright,** and silver medalists from the **U.S. Olympic fencing team** to unveil a brand new school facility for 300 6th, 7th and 8th graders. The official ribbon cutting will take place at the school's new home at **207 West 133rd Street.**

Democracy Prep is a public charter school which accepts all students through a random lottery process. The school opened in 2006 at P.S. 92, a traditional school building next door to the new facility. Given the tremendous academic success and community demand for seats at Democracy Prep, a permanent home was needed in order for the school to continue to grow to serve grades 6-12. With a **waiting list of more than 1,000 students** and eight applicants for every one available seat in the sixth grade, the charter school is one of the most in demand in all of New York City. Recent Learning Environment Survey results from the Department of Education placed **Democracy Prep above all schools in Community Board 10**, including test-entry schools, and all charter networks in the City. On the 2008 Math exams, **Democracy Prep students surpassed New York State and even Westchester County.**

Seth Andrew, Founder and Head of School, worked with St. Philip's Episcopal Church and Civic Builders, a non-profit developer of public charter school facilities, to secure a 22-year lease on the property. A \$5.5 million gut renovation was performed and the end result is a beautiful new school with 13 classrooms, a library, a gymnasium, small instruction rooms, teacher collaboration rooms, administrative offices, and a theater. The facility was constructed on-budget and on-time for a fraction of the cost of constructing a traditional school.

Democracy Prep's student body is 100% African-American and Latino, with approximately 82% of students eligible for free or reduced-price lunch, 12% enter as English Language Learners, and 20% enter with special needs. The school draws an applicant pool from all five boroughs, with the majority of students coming from Harlem and the South Bronx. Students, parents, teachers and elected officials will be available for comment.

WHO: Congressman Charles Rangel, Manhattan Borough President Scott Stringer, Council Member Robert Jackson, U.S. Olympic medalists, students, parents, and supporters of Democracy Prep.

WHAT: Ribbon cutting for new DPCS facility in Harlem

WHERE: Democracy Preparatory Charter School - 207 West 133rd Street, off of Adam Clayton Powell Blvd.

WHEN: Monday, September 15th at 10:15 a.m.

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