



ORANGE TOWNSHIP PUBLIC SCHOOLS ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

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The Central Campus Community School Opens in Orange

Funded by JPMorgan Chase, the school is a partnership between the school system, community organizations, and city government.

(Orange, NJ) - The Orange Public School District officially launched The Central Campus Community School today with a Ribbon Cutting Ceremony opening the Community Room at Central Elementary School. A partnership among Central Elementary and the adjacent Rosa Parks Elementary School and the YWCA, the new initiative will provide an array of services and supports that children need to succeed in school. The initiative is being funded by the JPMorgan Chase Foundation as part of its effort to work with community groups, local government and businesses to revitalize the City of Orange Township.

Central Campus is an example of the innovative steps the school district is taking to enhance student achievement. "It takes a whole village to ensure that our children succeed in school," said Ronald C. Lee, Superintendent of Orange Public Schools. "I am proud that Orange Public School has been selected as a model of how schools and the community can work collaboratively."

JPMorgan Chase has made a multi-year commitment to partner with local community-based organizations, the school system, city government and local businesses to improve the quality of life for the residents of Orange. "Central Campus Community School is a big part of a larger effort the foundation is making to help this city improve student achievement, support families, stabilize neighborhoods and increase economic development," states Elliott Lee, who oversees grant making in New Jersey for the JPMorgan Chase Foundation

Orange's Mayor, the Honorable Eldridge Hawkins, Jr. said, "Public/private partnerships are an important part of my strategy to transform Orange. The community school represents partnership at its best. On behalf of the citizens of Orange, I want to thank JPMorgan Chase for its five-year commitment to work in partnership with the school system, city government, and non-profits on behalf of Orange's families."

Central and Rosa Parks, which together serve about 900 students, were chosen to form the community school because of their location near a number of local resources, the diversity of their student populations and the compatibility of their programs with core elements of most community schools around the country. “Our goals reflect the needs of the community; therefore, our initial focus is to make sure we offer students additional after school activities,” says Carole Brotspies, a former principal in the Orange school district who is site director for the initiative.

The YWCA, through its affiliation with New Jersey After 3, a statewide network of after school programs, will provide Central and Rosa Parks students with such school programs as computer labs to improve their technology skills, homework help and enrichment activities through field trips. A Teen Room at the YWCA will support older students, providing them with a place to go after school. Central Campus will also coordinate its activities with the City of Orange’s recreational programs.

Students will not be the only ones served. The Community Room will be open to their parents before, during and after school hours. Parents will have access to computers and will be offered leadership training and assistance in supporting their children’s learning at home. Central Campus will also offer English as a Second Language (ESL) programs for non-English speaking parents and will make available to all parents GED instruction. Eventually, Central Campus will provide students and parents with greater access to community-based health and wellness services.

The Central Campus Community School is a partnership with the Orange Public School System, the YWCA of Essex and West Hudson, and the City of Orange Township. The Children’s Aid Society, through its National Technical Assistance Center for Community Schools, is helping the partners get things off to a good start.

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For information on The Central Campus Community School, contact Carole Brotspies, Central Elementary School, 973 677-4110.