



**EARL
MONROE**

NEW RENAISSANCE
BASKETBALL SCHOOL



2021-2022

MAKING HISTORY TOGETHER







A LETTER FROM OUR FOUNDER

Dear Friend,

What a year! Our school, eight years in the making, opened its doors to 110 ninth grade boys and girls in late August. It's been a challenge, a fight, and a mission, from numerous perspectives, daily. Fourteen years of NEGLECT is our enemy. Fourteen years of our students enduring economic struggles, a broken public school system, a crippling virus, special needs that have been mismanaged, hunger, homelessness, and desperation. But nevertheless, they fill one's soul with their will and innocence, knowing that in this day and age, life can - and will - be better.

Our students, just like countless others, have a desire to be heard, listened to, encouraged, embraced, and challenged.

We thought we were ready, and in some areas we made startling leaps forward. But what we face today will now and forever be a permanent contest between inspiration, innovation, creativity, and accountability versus the malaise of bureaucracy, status quo, and talk.

Simply put, we need to find and train more and more teachers willing to lead

the charge. Indeed, as we approach our second year and welcome a new group of freshmen, we will total 220 students and more than 50 professionals - a historic ratio of close to 4:1, far and away better than almost all other schools across the country.

"Winning" means that three years from now, when our current rising sophomores are about to graduate, every single one of them is prepared to move forward. It means they are serious-minded, with their heads up, looking others in the eye, and confident in themselves to enter the college or career of their choice. "Winning" means stability, kindness, forgiveness, ambition, and work ethic.

We cannot and will not accept mediocrity. This August we will start a year-long teacher training program in search of a Dream Team of counselors, administrators and staffers with hunger in their own eyes.

"Proof is the bottom line for everyone," wrote Paul Simon, and we have it: our students' literacy levels jumped by an average of three grades from September through late May. In March, the results of our mock New York State Regents exams were hideous. But ten weeks later, following an emergency full-time, after-school and Saturday tutoring program, more than

half the school received passing grades! Throughout the year, our students have also led constant and visual campaigns against gun violence and in support of innocent Ukrainian children.

We are so fortunate to have Trustees, an 80-member Board of Advisors, and donors from around the globe who have awarded us their wisdom, generosity, and time.

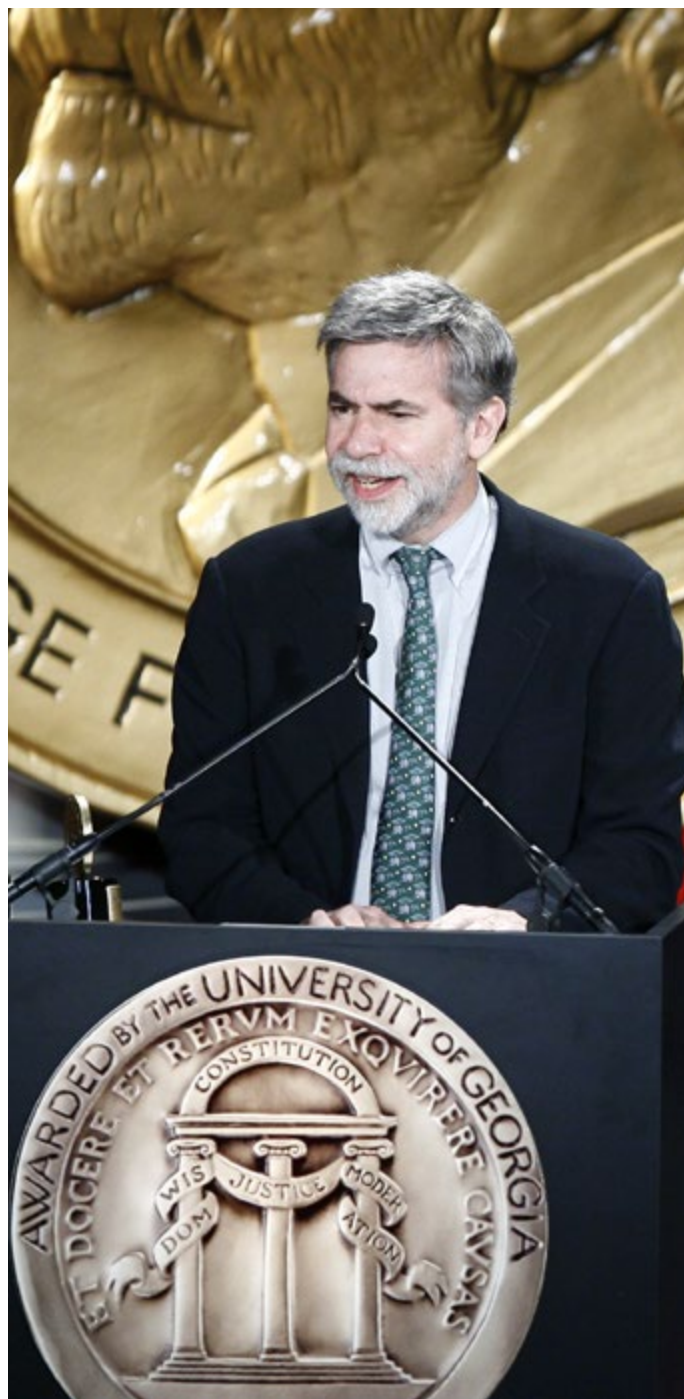
Amongst our ever-expanding universe, we have added for the upcoming school year an Executive Director, assistant principal, librarian, five times the amount of special needs teachers, a full-time college and career counselor, and an in-house director of a revolutionary one-on-one mentoring program with the private sector.

I am confident that our commitment to a pedagogy that blends literacy enrichment, special needs, and project-based learning with behavioral insights will eventually become the standard of permanence and excellence our students need. We will never retreat until we get there.

Thank you,



Dan Klores, Founder



***A ball and a book
can change the world.***

A NOTE FROM EARL MONROE



I've always believed that a legacy represents more than what a person is able to achieve: it's the impact their achievements have on others that truly resonates.

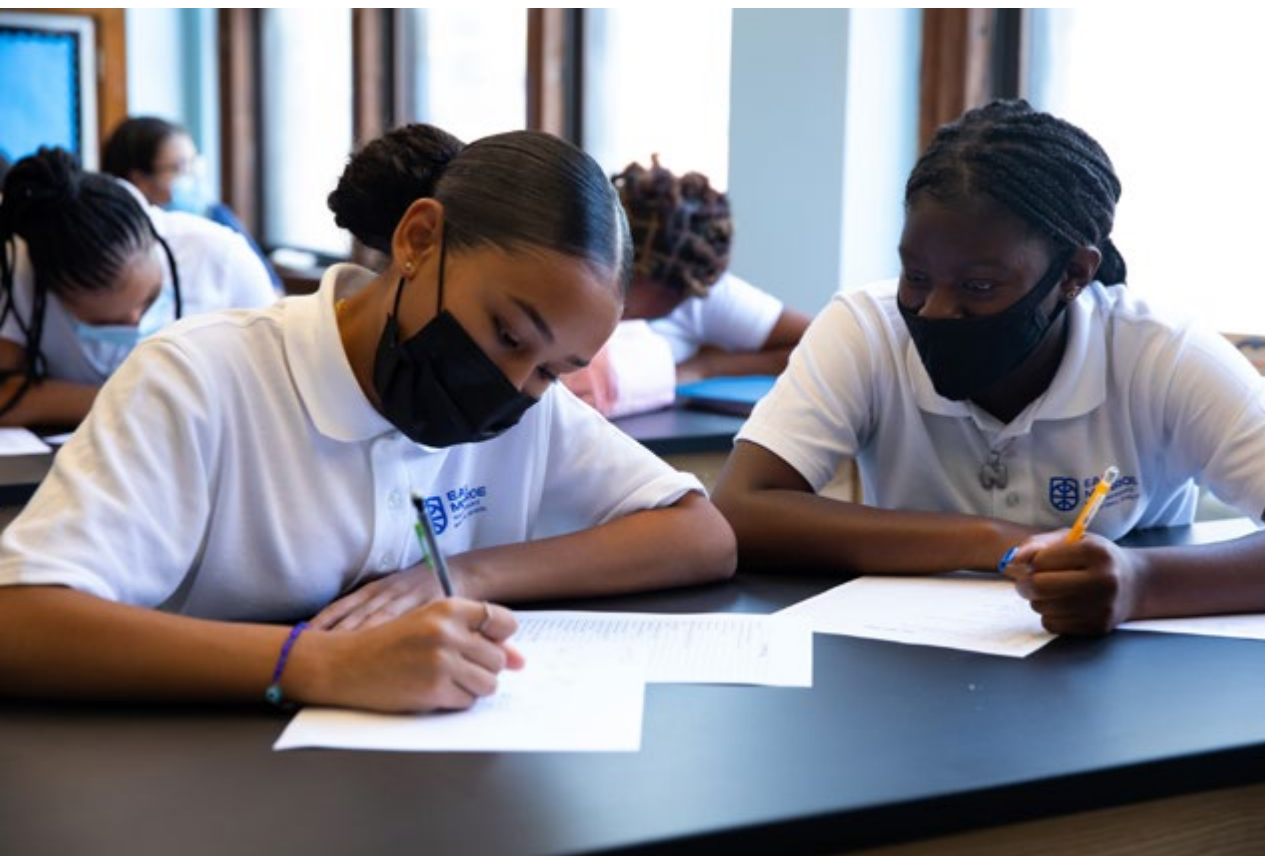
A lifetime dedicated to basketball has led me from the court to the classroom, and I'm excited every day by what we're building together in the Bronx. It's an honor I cherish - and a responsibility I embrace - to have my name on this school.

These kids are facing a combination of challenges we can only try to understand, and they need to know that a brighter future does not require a perfect jumper.

From broadcasting and marketing to medicine and data analysis, basketball is much bigger than a game, and it offers more opportunities than I ever could have imagined when I was growing up. With that in mind, we're encouraging our students to work hard and dream big.

Thank you for being a part of the effort that has resulted in a successful first year. Our team is only getting stronger, and our mission is clear: to set these kids up to take their shot - and make it.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earl Monroe", is positioned to the right of the final paragraph of text.



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Across New York City, generations of young people dream that their love for basketball will deliver them from social and economic hardships. For many, this means gambling their future on unrealistic hoop dreams.

OUR MISSION

At Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School, we're working to ensure that our students' futures are filled with possibility – whether they play the game or not.

Our school is designed to help kids from NYC's most challenging neighborhoods see beyond the hardwood to find hope, opportunity and inspiration from recognizable and respected role models who have thrived in a variety of professions related to basketball.



OUR STUDENTS

ENROLLMENT

110 FRESHMEN



ETHNICITY BREAKDOWN

35% AFRICAN-AMERICAN

1% ASIAN/PACIFIC ISLANDER

56% HISPANIC/LATINO

8% WHITE/OTHER



COMMUNITIES SERVED

97.3% THE BRONX
2.7% MANHATTAN

32% FEMALE
68% MALE

31%
QUALIFY FOR SPECIAL
EDUCATION SERVICES

81%
QUALIFY FOR
FREE OR REDUCED-
PRICE LUNCHES

OUR APPROACH

Our leadership has long been inspired by the potential of non-traditional teaching environments. We believe that creating is an integral component to the future of education in this country, and we seek to foster a unique, hands-on learning experience.

In addition to the rigorous New York State core curriculum, our innovative academic approach infuses the lessons of basketball's ecosystem into daily plans and also provides students with hands-on experiences around different facets of the game. Our unique, tailored programming exposes our kids to broadcast journalism, marketing, business, finance, law, coaching, analytics, nutrition, physical rehab, psychology, print and digital media, personal representation, design, food services, in-arena entertainment, officiating, and more.

From financial support to social and professional guidance, we strive to ensure all our students have the tools they need to thrive. Indeed, beginning in their sophomore year, all students will participate in an in-house program where they will be matched with a mentor from the private sector on a one-to-one basis. We have also hired a full-time director whose primary focus is to provide college and career counseling.

Beginning in their junior year, students will be placed in summer internships related to their academic interests, and all students in each grade - along with their families - have access to a full-time psychologist and a team of licensed social workers.

Underserved students and families are also provided with additional support for shelter, clothing, transportation, and medical assistance - and scholarship funds will be available for graduating seniors to help them with college and prepare them for careers in a basketball-related field.



A photograph of a classroom with students wearing face masks and working at their desks. In the foreground, a young man in a blue shirt and black mask is looking intently at a book or paper on his desk, holding a yellow pencil. Other students are visible in the background, also working. The image is framed by orange bars at the top and bottom.

**A BALL AND
A BOOK CAN
CHANGE
THE WORLD.**

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE

After years of systemic neglect followed by two years of pandemic-disrupted learning, we knew our incoming students were going to be facing an uphill battle academically. We were prepared to be diligent and creative in getting students up to speed, especially in the lead-up to the New York State Regents exams administered in the Spring. What we found, however, was nothing short of an academic catastrophe – one that would require an immediate and aggressive response.



ENRICHMENT PROGRAMMING

In early September, we conducted diagnostic testing for reading and math in order to measure how Earl Monroe students compared to their peers and whether they were performing at or near grade level. The results were staggering and alarming: 50% of kids were coming into ninth grade performing at a fourth grade level for both math and reading.

In fact, the vast majority of our kids were deemed “at risk” (2+ grade levels behind): 84% in math and 80% in reading.

Following these results we knew the odds were against us and the road ahead was not going to be easy. However, we wasted no time in attacking the situation head-on. By October, we had hired seven full-time literacy enrichment

teachers and installed a comprehensive tutoring program for both math and reading, spending \$575,000 over budget

because we knew this was a make-or-break moment for our kids and our school.

Beginning with daily off-hour tutoring sessions and personalized development plans, we set up an intensive, regimented program. We also were in constant contact with parents to ensure they were fully aware of the situation, their child’s specific needs, and the support offered to them in and outside of school hours.

50% of kids were coming into ninth grade performing at a fourth grade level for both math and reading.

Our supportive programming was immersive, impactful, and – most importantly – successful. By the end of the school year, we reduced the number of “at risk” students in math to 72% and reading to 47% – a remarkable 33% improvement. We also increased the percent of students reading at or above grade level with 6% and 13% jumps in math and reading, respectively.



REGENTS EXAM TUTORING PROGRAM

With our tutoring program launched and building momentum, we turned our attention to preparation for the state Regents exams, which students are required to pass in order to graduate. For our freshman class, the exams are a clear barometer of their academic trajectory and likelihood of graduating and moving on to college.

In March, we held mock benchmark exams to see how students would probably perform at the official June exam. Again, the results were disturbing: only 6% of our students passed in science and 40% passed in math. Given these results, we knew we had a nine-week sprint to get our kids prepared and ready for this exam.

To this end, we initiated the Regents Exam Tutoring Program. A team of professional

tutors met with small groups of students four days a week after school and in longer sessions on Saturdays to help prepare them for the state standardized tests. As the program took shape, attendance grew, and incentives like pizza parties and extra gym time increasingly motivated students to participate.

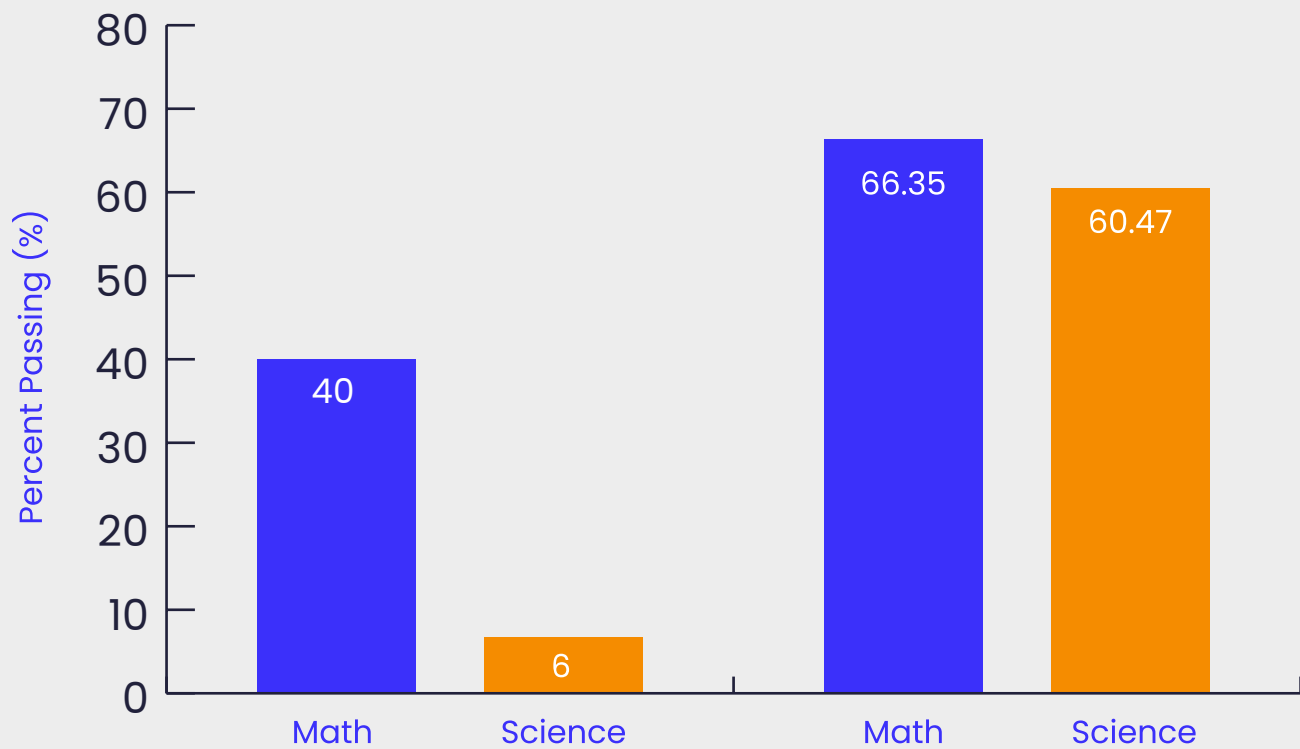
The culmination of all these efforts came in June when we got back our students' Regents scores. Over two-thirds of the student body passed math and 60% got a passing score in science. From almost none of our class ready to pass their Regents to the majority passing, it was a proud day for the school and proof positive that committed, creative, strategic action can make a huge difference.



Regents Benchmark
in March 2022

vs.

Regents Exam Results
in June 2022



MEET THE TEAM



INTRODUCING OUR NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, BRANDON CORLEY

We are thrilled to welcome Brandon Corley to the Earl Monroe team as our first-ever Executive Director. Mr. Corley, a former high school mathematics teacher in Chicago, Philadelphia and New York City, is the co-founder and former Academic Director for South Bronx Community Charter High School. Since 2004, he has served as Project Director for the Children's Defense Fund Freedom Schools program, delivering support to schools and children across the country. A recognized and respected national leader in the K-12 arena, Mr. Corley has a BA in Mathematics/ Secondary Education from Chicago State University and MS in Educational Leadership from Baruch College.



As Executive Director, Mr. Corley is charged with driving forward our school mission and vision, fostering and developing organizational leadership, and ensuring a culture of rigor, support, respect and excellence in all aspects of school life. Mr. Corley will work hand-in-hand with trustees, advisors, partners, school and city officials, and other critical stakeholders to ensure Earl Monroe's continued growth and success. Above all, he will ensure there is a deep-rooted, caring connection between the school and our students, their families, and the surrounding community we serve and support.

Welcome, Mr. Corley!

A CONVERSATION WITH DR. KERN MOJICA, HEAD OF SCHOOL

Q: How did you first get involved with this school?

Dr. Mojica: I've been in education for 17 years, and I got involved because it's an opportunity that doesn't come along too often in education, especially in public education: to build something that has never existed before, and reach a population that is definitely in need.

Q: What is so unique about this opportunity and what excites you the most?

Dr. Mojica: We are taking our students' passion, and we're using that to drive their education. Far too often in education, students are told what they have to learn without a reason for it or how it's going to apply to their lives, so we're taking what they love - the game of basketball - and we're telling them and showing them how they can build their future around it.

Q: What are your goals for the coming school year?

Dr. Mojica: To create a curriculum and environment that prepares our students for the future. I have a background in STEM and technology, and we know there will be jobs available to our students that don't yet exist. We need to get them ready to compete for these kinds of jobs by teaching them problem-solving skills that will help them adapt and think critically.





Q: What message do you have for the parents of next year's incoming class?

Dr. Mojica: I want them to know that their voice matters, and that they need to be an active participant in their kids' growth and development. We'll be the educational

experts, but their voice matters, and communicating the challenges they have helps in how we develop our programs and meet their kids' needs. We can't do it alone and it's truly a partnership.

ATHLETIC DIRECTOR ANDY BORMAN... ON TEAMWORK AND PARTNERSHIP

Q: What have you learned from this first group of students?

Andy: While they certainly all do have basketball in common, they look different from one another and come from different backgrounds. What unites them is that they have such an incredible school spirit. These kids are proud to go to this school and proud of what it stands for.

Q: How are you teaching kids about the bigger world of basketball?

Andy: It's a path of discovery. We're structured in a way that these young student athletes get to play, but they also learn how to set up the gym, stand behind the scorer's table to track player fouls and timeouts, interact with the referee, take photographs and more. It's all part of the game.

Q: How do outside partners play a role in the students' education?

Andy: This is not one of those places where people just cut a check and walk away; they're actually invested in it. Think of the people who have come through this year: Adam Silver, the Commissioner of the NBA; Michelle Roberts, the Director of the Players Association; Julius Randle of the Knicks; Sabrina Ionescu of the Liberty; Nike's head of Jordan Brand. The fact that these kids can not just hear about them, but see them with their own eyes, leaves a lasting mark. We're creating a student body that's going to pay it forward when they are able to do the same, and I think that would be the ultimate definition of success for this school.



LITERACY ENRICHMENT SPECIALIST JUDITH REDLENER... ON TAILORING SUPPORT AND GROWING ENTHUSIASM

Q: How do the Earl Monroe literacy enrichment specialists engage with students?

Judith: We have six literacy enrichment specialists who meet with the students on a regular basis, in some cases five and six times a week. We do all sorts of intervention exercises from writing to reading, research, phonics; wherever the students need help, we have individualized lesson plans so they are getting very, very targeted instruction.

Q: What are you seeing as the biggest challenge in getting our kids to grade level?

Judith: There are a lot of vocabulary issues. We focus on introducing at least three new words a week; having the students write down words, their definitions, and then put them in a sentence. They are then quizzed once a week and must use the words in persuasive essays and other writings. We also make sure to incorporate the vocabulary word of the day for the entire school in their lessons so we can reinforce what they are using in science and English class.

Q: How have the kids progressed in the program since they took the initial diagnostic test?

Judith: The kids have been doing so well. I think the first time they took the i-Ready [diagnostic] test they saw it as just another standardized test. Once they realized it could really affect how they are taught



and how many times they need to come to literacy class they started putting in a lot more work. They are now doing so well on their tests and in the classes. Of course, they are learning a lot more and getting better, but some of it is they really care a lot more. There are just a lot of people, including them, who are putting in the effort and really paying attention. It's really amazing.

YEAR IN REVIEW



Over 1,000 children and families from across NYC and Westchester applied to the charter school lottery for placement in Earl Monroe New Renaissance Basketball School, and on September 7, 2021, we opened our doors to welcome an inaugural class of 110 freshman boys and girls.

With their arrival came great enthusiasm and excitement, as staff and students came together after eight years of planning and preparation in pursuit of a historic achievement: to give birth to a completely new school experience designed around the many different career paths in and around basketball. From uniform design to nutrition and from analytics to marketing, the students at Earl Monroe will be afforded the chance to marry their passion with opportunity.

Although the early academic focus was on building up our students' foundational knowledge, we also set out to start shaping a strong school culture built on respect for one another and our learning environment.



We began by enriching our physical space. Even though we are using a transitional space as we wait for our new, permanent facility to open in 2024, it was critical to create a safe, welcoming environment for our students from day one. With the support of our trustees, partners and a team of student-athlete volunteers from the Rens, \$500,000 was invested to repair and replace lockers and desks, paint our walls and hallways, restore the gymnasium, and so much more.



Today, students and staff walk around the school and see photos of the honor society, chess club, fashion and design team, athletic rosters, and 20 inspirational quotes from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Harriet Tubman to Michael Jordan and Aristotle.

Students are also being taught that details matter: by maintaining their personal appearance, helping to keep the school and their workstations clean, or simply by being on time and ready to go when class starts, they're learning that we're all responsible for building this new institution.

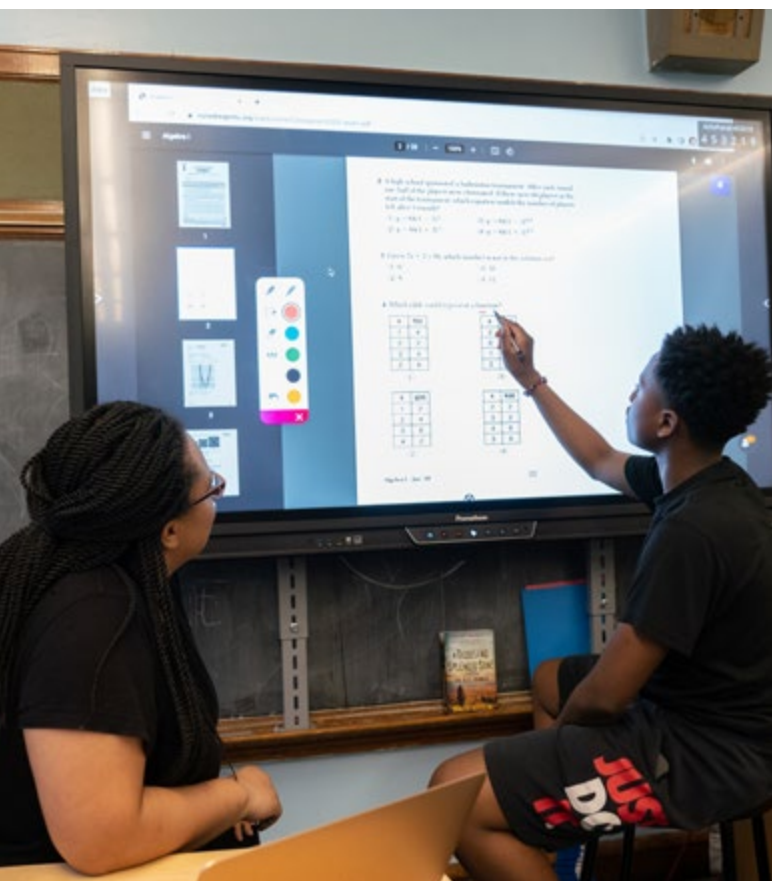
Developing pride in their school - and displaying it on their uniform - is also helping our students develop pride in themselves. Many of our freshmen arrived not only with low test scores, but with low



self-esteem and a lack of exposure to learning. Finding innovative ways to work basketball into our curriculum - with math problems disguised as game statistics, for example - has helped raise their interest along with their test scores, as has using extracurricular programming to increase participation and excitement.

On any given week, an Earl Monroe student can find themselves at the Metropolitan Museum of Art discussing the latest exhibition with other members of the Fashion Club, or participating in a drawing workshop at the Society of Illustrators with the Comic Book Club, or attending the Big East tournament as guests of Big East Commissioner Val Ackerman, or catching *Beyond a Dream* at Radio City Music Hall thanks to Madison Square Garden's non-profit Garden of Dreams Foundation.

As they find more inspiration and self-confidence, we're helping to teach our kids other skills they'll need as they look ahead towards college, careers, and personal independence. Our friends at JP Morgan Chase created year-long financial literacy workshops to teach our students the basics of personal accounting and savings. Morgan Stanley executives visited the





“My favorite part of being a student at Earl Monroe is being able to represent and be that pedestal, along with my peers, for the next generation to have guidance throughout their years at the school.”

– Jimenez Maynor, Honor Roll student

school to talk about their experiences and give tips to aspiring financiers. And, our partners from Nike helped raise awareness of the importance of self-care and emotional wellness practices through yoga and meditation courses in the lead-up to the Regents exam.

Another important component of our school-wide curriculum is learning the value of giving back and standing on principle. We raised our collective voices

in support of the children of Ukraine and against gun violence in America, emblazoning emblems for both causes on our uniforms.

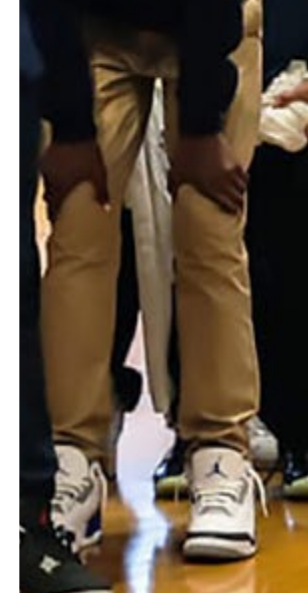
We also cheered on the Knicks’ Julius Randle, who pledged a donation to the school for every three-pointer he made this season and inspired many other sponsors and individuals to follow his lead. Thanks to Julius and Earl Monroe friends and family, the #30for3 campaign raised over

\$475,000, all of which was geared towards our literacy enrichment program.

Overall, this was a remarkable and successful first year. But we also know there is much room for growth and room for improvement.

Much like our 110 freshmen, were we all newcomers this year. Just as our rising tenth graders will be next year's mentors – helping our incoming class follow in their footsteps, learn from their mistakes, and strengthen our program even more – the same can be said for our faculty and staff.

The ratio of students to professionals at Earl Monroe is close to 4:1, an extraordinary commitment. With one year of experience and the validation that our vision and model is viable, we have even more motivation to build on our momentum, push our students to greater success, and build a school of opportunity for years and years to come.









LOOKING AHEAD



**“It’s important that we
prepare kids for their
future, not our past.”**

– Dr. Kern Mojica



We look forward to welcoming our second class this Fall and building on the lessons we've learned as educators: doubling down on what worked, rethinking in areas where we can do better, and ensuring that the experiences of our initial class of freshmen inform the plans for the incoming group that will follow in their footsteps.

As our enrollment increases, so will our team and our needs. We will be expanding existing programs in literacy and math enhancement, social emotional learning, career planning, and more. In fact, we are continuing to keep the school open and tutoring programs running throughout the Summer.

Additional building space will also be needed to accommodate the incoming class and expanded staff, all while we continue to push forward on the design and construction of our new home.

We are also excited that all of our partners have committed to continue their support and programming through this next academic year and beyond. And, we fully expect to have more organizations join the Earl Monroe family in the coming months.

Propelled by the enthusiasm from our staff, students, parents, and supporters, we are excited about the successes of year one and motivated to expand upon them in year two.



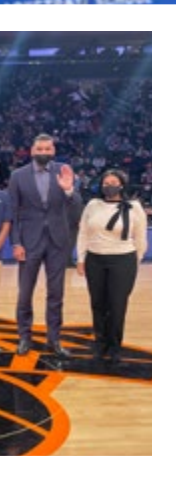


OUR FUTURE HOME

We remain on track to open our new, permanent facility in 2024. The five-story, 67,000 square foot building will serve as a new anchor tenant in the South Bronx, helping spur community revitalization and making the Earl Monroe New Renaissance School a pivotal institution in the area. With a contemporary, sustainable design, outdoor space, and state-of-the-art amenities, including a full gymnasium, broadcast studio, student lounge and more, the building will be a testament to our commitment to our mission and our students.

LEADERSHIP & RECOGNITION

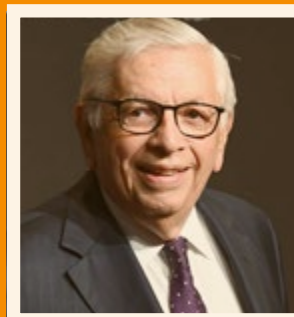




BOARD OF TRUSTEES

It is with deepest gratitude and thanks that we recognize the amazing people and institutions that have given so much to this school and our students. From our incredible Board of Trustees to an unprecedented group of Advisors and partners, the team we have assembled is second to none. This year – more so, this school – would not have been possible without their commitment and generosity.

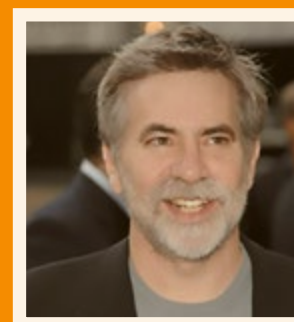
We would also like to specifically acknowledge the vision and leadership of Founder Dan Klores, Founding Advisor and Legacy Trustee Earl Monroe, and Legacy Trustee (In Memoriam) David Stern. Their passion to make a difference and belief in a bigger purpose helped make an idea into a reality: a ball and a book can truly change the world.



DAVID STERN
Founding Trustee
(In Memoriam)



EARL MONROE
Founding Advisor,
Legacy Trustee



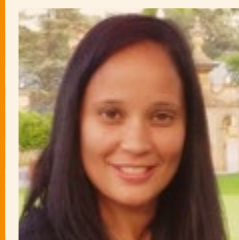
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School Founder,
Board President

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Executive Director, Morgan Stanley,
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**ANITA REYES****Secretary**

Executive Director,
The Bronx Neighborhood
Health Action Center

**LEN ELMORE**

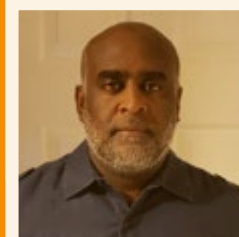
Retired attorney, business
leader, television sports
personality, educator

**ALAN FISHMAN**

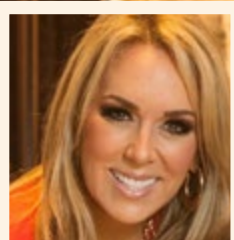
Chairman, Ladder
Capital Finance
Corporation

**ERNESTO FREIRE**

Chief of Staff and
Communications Director,
Bloomberg Associates

**DERRICK GREEN**

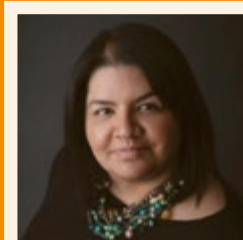
Field Technician,
Verizon; former NY Rens
Head Coach

**JACKIE HARRIS**

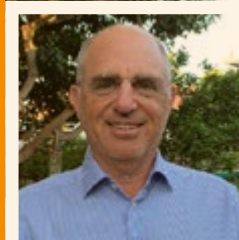
Sports Marketing Executive,
Philanthropist, Lawyer

**CHARLIE KING**

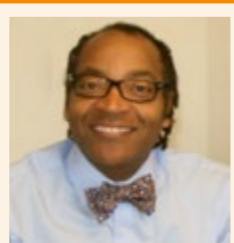
Partner, Mercury LLC

**PRISCA SALAZAR-
RODRIGUEZ**

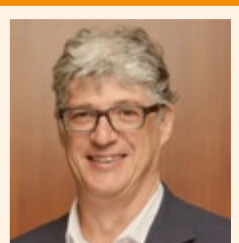
Director, Hilltop Public Solutions;
Fmr. Deputy Chief of Staff to Bronx
Borough President Ruben Diaz

**MICHAEL SALZER**

President, MacGuffin
Films, Assembly Films,
& the Rec. Room

**MILTON SIPP**

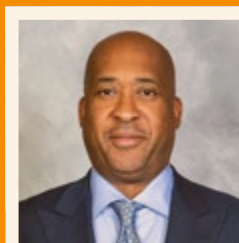
Assistant Head of School,
Riverdale Country School

**DAVID STRASSER**

Managing Director at SWaN

**VYASA TEWARI
AUTAR**

Academic Specialist and
Instructional Coach

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New York Knicks

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Ernie Browne Retired teacher

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Harriet Burnett Director of Admissions, Friends Seminary

Judd Burstein Top-rated General Litigation Attorney

Peter Cohen Rtd. Managing Director and Global Head of Media and Entertainment, Barclays

Sid Davidoff Chair, DHC Administrative Law and Government Relations Groups; Davidoff, Hutcher & Citron, LLP

Bobbito Garcia Author, DJ, Filmmaker

Marty Geller Founder and CEO, Geller and Company; Co-Owner of Philadelphia 76ers

David M. Goldman General Counsel, Associated Capital Group

Lloyd Goldman President, BLDG Management Company

Russ Granik Vice Chairman, Galatioto Sports Partners; Deputy Commissioner and COO, National Basketball Association; Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee

Mike Greenberg Noted ESPN Broadcaster, Host, and Author

Jim Gronfein Senior Media Executive focusing on Advertiser Sales

Stephen Adly Guirgis Pulitzer Prize-winning playwright

Sonny Hill Basketball Hall of Fame Inductee; Co-Founder, Baker League – Philadelphia

Paul Hirschheimer SVP, Multimedia Production, NBA Entertainment

David Hollander Professor and Cultural Historian, New York University





Garry Howard Director of Corporate Initiatives,
American City Business Journal

Craig Kallman Chairman and CEO, Atlantic
Records Group

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