



THE CITY OF NEW YORK
OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
BROOKLYN, NY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: August 21, 2018
CONTACT: pressoffice@cityhall.nyc.gov, (212) 788-2958

**MAYOR DE BLASIO, CHANCELLOR CARRANZA, AND COUNCIL MEMBER
BRANNAN HIGHLIGHT NEW BAY RIDGE PRE-K CENTER**

*New 250-seat pre-K center in Bay Ridge fully equipped with interactive white boards,
community meeting room, and multipurpose room*

BROOKLYN—Mayor Bill de Blasio, Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza, and Council Member Justin Brannan today toured a brand-new pre-K center in Bay Ridge. Opening for the 2018-19 school year, the new three-story, state-of-the-art building will offer seats to more than 250 pre-K students.

“Early childhood education has the power to put kids on the path to success, said **Mayor Bill de Blasio**. “As a parent, I believe that it should be a right – not a privilege - and that all New York City children deserve that opportunity. This new Bay Ridge school is the brick and mortar proof of our commitment to expanding Pre-K for All and ensuring that every young New Yorker has a chance to succeed in school.”

“This building is a concrete testament to our investment in the education of our youngest New Yorkers,” said **Deputy Mayor for Strategic Policy Initiatives Mayor Phil Thompson**. “We are incredibly excited for the students in Brooklyn who will get to learn and play in this brand new space in just a few weeks.”

“Pre-K for All is a game-changer for young students and families across this City, and this new state-of-the-art building will benefit hundreds of Brooklyn students every year,” said **Schools Chancellor Richard A. Carranza**. “In this amazing learning environment, our four-year-olds will get an early start to their educational career that will form the foundation of their long-term academic success.”

“UPK is a proven way to get kids started on the right educational track,” said **Council Member Justin Brannan**. “I thank Mayor de Blasio and Chancellor Carranza for continuing to expand the program and for giving Bay Ridge these additional seats that are very much in demand.” Built by the School Construction Authority, the District 20 Pre-K Center at 369 93rd Street is fully ADA-accessible and includes:

- 14 classrooms

- Interactive white boards
- An outdoor playground
- An indoor multipurpose recreation room
- A community meeting room

“This new state-of-the-art school building will bring excitement and an eagerness for learning to hundreds of our youngest New Yorkers,” said **Lorraine Grillo, President and CEO of the NYC School Construction Authority**. “This news space includes all the amenities we expect in a world class education facility, and we are thrilled to open this space up to Bay Ridge families.”

Parents with children enrolled in free, full-day pre-K save an average of \$10,000 annually on childcare costs. Additionally, a 2017 NYU study found that Pre-K for All increases the chance that a low-income child in New York City is properly diagnosed with asthma or vision problems and receives screenings or treatment for hearing or vision problems. Independent research from the NYC Center for Economic Opportunity demonstrated high satisfaction with Pre-K for All: 92 percent of families surveyed rated their program as excellent or good, and 83 percent of families said their child learned a lot in pre-K. Across the board, the research shows that both students and families are seeing critical benefits from Pre-K for All.

Pre-K for All and 3-K for All are part of the Mayor and Chancellor’s Equity and Excellence for All agenda. Together, the Equity and Excellence for All initiatives are building a pathway to success in college and careers for all students. Our students are starting school earlier, with free, full-day, high-quality education for three-year-olds and four-year-olds through 3-K for All and Pre-K for All; and our schools are strengthening foundational skills and instruction earlier, with Universal Literacy and Algebra for All. Our schools are also offering students more challenging, hands-on, college and career-aligned coursework, as Computer Science for All brings 21st-century computer science instruction to every school, and AP for All works to give all high school students access to at least five Advanced Placement courses. Along the way, our schools are providing students and families additional support through College Access for All, Single Shepherd, and investment in Community Schools. Efforts to create more diverse and inclusive classrooms are central to this pathway.

###