

**TOP STORY**

## **Collaboration Between Public, Private Sectors Gives Boost To Charter Schools**

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*A school designed to introduce some of the city's youngest students to the art world is just one of a number of charter schools popping up all over town. NY1's Education Reporter Jennifer Rainville takes you to the grand opening.*

Drum beats welcomed the new school year and a new school. After squeezing into space in another school for the past year, the Bronx Charter School for the Arts finally has a building of its own.

The school, which serves grades K through four and hopes to expand to grade six, incorporates the arts into every part of the day and into every subject covered, for example third graders learn their multiplication tables through music.

"We have benchmarks in the arts, learning benchmarks, in each grade level in music, theatre, visual arts and dance and those benchmarks are given weight in the same way that benchmarks in math and literacy are," said the school's executive director Xanthe Jory.

"A school that is really focused on the arts, I think can assist children so much in terms of both their creativity and the broader development of their minds," said City Councilwoman Eva Moskowitz.

The Bloomberg administration, partnering with the private sector, has pledged to create at least 50 new charter schools over the next five years, believing charters are a good shot in the arm in communities where neighborhood schools are waiting for reforms to kick in.

"No city in the country will be as charter friendly as New York City is," said Schools Chancellor Joel Klein.

"I think that this is a great collaboration between folks from the private and public sector and outstanding education leaders and it happens in a place in the city that is changing," said Bronx Borough President Adolfo Carrion.

One of the biggest challenges a charter school faces in getting started is finding space and it took many months to turn a windowless sausage factory into a colorful school full of light.