

FROM: Tina Sher, Barack Obama Community Charter School

TO: Tevah Platt, Staten Island Advance

RE: Coverage of school's signature-collection drive

CHARTER SCHOOL GROUP
COLLECTING SIGNATURES
AT ST. GEORGE GREENMARKET
FOR SCHOOL'S 9/10 OPENING

Are you a parent in Staten Island's Community School District 31 with a child who'll be eligible for enrollment in kindergarten or first grade in September, 2010? If so, the planning team of the Barack Obama Community Charter School urgently needs your help--and that help is easy to give. Just sign a petition supporting the school's application for a charter and you're done.

The planning team will have a table available to collect your signature every Saturday at the St. George Greenmarket (open from 00 a.m. to 00 p.m.) in the St. George Municipal Parking Lot bounded by St. Marks Place, Hyatt Street and Central Avenue, across from the St. George Theatre.

You may already know the planning team members from their work on the St. George Community Charter School. The name was changed to the Barack Obama Community Charter School, they say, following the election, to honor the new president as a figure representing the school's core ideals of community service and social responsibility.

Though the name has changed, team members point out, the school's focus has not. If anything, the president's name reinforces that focus, which is on academic excellence, social responsibility and the arts. There's also an emphasis on using Staten Island resources in its science and social studies curricula.

Underlying all aspects of school operations and policy, says the team, is a commitment to respect, collaboration and parent involvement. They are equally committed, they say, to welcoming and supporting teachers as school stakeholders.

The proposed opening of the Barack Obama Community Charter School will be in September, 2010. The school plans to serve Kindergarten and first grade children initially and then to grow, one grade at a time, until the school reaches full kindergarten-to-eighth-grade capacity.

Parents and others who'd like more information about the school can visit its blog at <http://barackobamacommunitycharterschool.wordpress.com>