



EAGLE OCEAN HILL HISTORY

From an early vision, detailed in an eighty-paged document, the Eagle Academy for Young Men at Ocean Hill would emerge. It was 2008, a time when the notion of a single gender public school was unfamiliar to most, and one specific to addressing the needs of young men of color in New York City was especially inconceivable. While this was good in theory, earning the trust of prospective families and convincing them that we were designed for their sons was an immense task. That September, fourteen educators rose to the occasion as our doors officially opened to sixty-five black and brown sixth grade boys.

At the time, we did not fathom that our approach would transform urban education. Instead, we did what needed to be done. We had to be dynamic. We knew the strategy that worked on a given day may never work again. Our efforts would not always mirror what was outlined in the new school proposal, or what was prescribed protocol from Tweed. A scholar's unique circumstance had to be met with an equally unique response. This is the work! Nine years later we are continuing the charge.

At the advent of the 2017-2018 school year, we continue to reflect on a journey that has been met with successes and challenges, highs and lows, one that has seen its share of blood, sweat and tears. Over these years, we have grown from just middle school into high school, and graduated three cohorts of young men into adulthood. Our young men have earned over three million dollars in college scholarships. They have designed community gardens and have traveled across this hemisphere for service projects. They've had internships at TV studios, investment banks, and construction sites. They have won PSAL championships. They have performed at the DNC. They have worked together to help their Eagle brothers through difficult classes and difficult moments.

The enthusiasm of raising our boys to men still motivates me as it did when this was merely a concept. Still, a structure is only as good as its foundation. At our core are committed educators, who share in the belief that a supportive school family and access to opportunity will inspire change. We are upheld by parents who believe in us as our first parents did. We are comprised of young men who identify themselves as brothers.

Eagle Ocean Hill is not confined to the building in which we operate. We are more than our mantras, more than our Five Pillars, more than our six Houses. We are a family!