



# NEWS RELEASE

ORANGE COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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Carver Middle School students, community members and school and elected officials broke ground on a replacement for the school, originally built in 1963. The new campus will open in 2017. (Shayla Cannady/Orange County Public Schools)

## Carver students, community break ground on new school

Students, staff and community members -- including a former principal -- helped break ground for the new Carver Middle School on January 8. The replacement school, which will begin site work and construction in late January, will open to students in Fall 2017.

During the groundbreaking ceremony, School Board Member Kathleen "Kat" Gordon encouraged Carver's young people to live up to their potential. She introduced several successful community members who attended Carver. Ernest Bradley, one of the school's former principals, helped current Carver Principal Hector Maestre and students unveil a rendering of the new campus.

Orange County Public Schools Superintendent Barbara Jenkins told the students that the new school, paid for by Orange County taxpayers, has a budget of \$37.8 million. "Every dollar is for you," she said. The original Carver Middle School opened in 1963.

The new Carver will be among the first class of a new middle school prototype. It will feature a two-story classroom building, updated technology, a track and soccer field and enough stacking capacity for 325 cars. It is being rebuilt for 1,215 students on the existing 31-acre site.

Two of the students who will attend the new school -- sixth-graders Ra'Nelsen Williams and Luna Jean Pierre, also spoke to the gathered dignitaries and community members about their excitement at getting a new school and their pride in being Carver Bears.

*(For more information, please contact Lauren Roth in Facilities Communications at 407.317.3700 ext. 2023774.)*

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