



## **News**

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### **New York City Students Co-Host New Podcast Interviewing Top Leaders & Executives**

***New York Edge launches 'Formative,'  
a new podcast where local students serve as the co-hosts;***

***Featured guests include chief operating officer of Bank United, an award-winning author,  
chief medical officer of the NCAA, & a NASA astronaut***

**New York, NY – March 22, 2022** – Middle school students across New York City are making their mark as co-hosts of a new podcast, as [New York Edge](#) – the city’s largest provider of school-based afterschool and summer programs – today announced the launch of *Formative*.

Five middle school students were hand-selected by New York Edge to help lead the show, providing them with the opportunity to interview various accomplished leaders from the worlds of business, science, the arts, and beyond. The students researched each guest’s background, developed questions, and conducted the interviews. Each of the 10, 30-minute episodes begins with an introduction by New York Edge CEO Rachael Gazdick, followed by interview questions by the organization’s students. *Formative* guests range from an astronaut to an arts activist, a GRAMMY-nominated musician who creates children’s music, an executive at a national bank, and more, who share their stories about their childhood, their inspirations, regrets, and what they’ve learned along the way.

“When we decided to create *Formative*, we immediately knew we wanted our students to be at the forefront, asking their own questions and learning directly from these outstanding leaders. Each of our students blew me away with their interviewing skills, offering fresh perspectives that listeners may not have gained if an adult was conducting the interview,” said **Rachael Gazdick, CEO of New York Edge**. “It’s been wonderful to watch these students light up during the interviews and walk away knowing they have agency and ownership over an important

initiative. We are grateful to each of our guests for joining *Formative* and we encourage all to tune into these incredibly insightful conversations.”

The participating students include:

- **Josh**, a seventh-grade student at P.S. 175 on City Island who is interested in becoming a broadcaster one day;
- **Orlando**, a student at Frederick Douglas Academy VIII Middle School who has goals of attending Brooklyn College and pursuing a career as a chef;
- **Lili**, a student from P.S. 175;
- **Alyson**, an eighth-grade student and artist attending IS 51R in Staten Island who enjoys theater;
- **Kevin**, a seventh-grade student at M.S. 127x in the Bronx; and
- **Jake**, a student at P.S. 175.

*Formative* launches on March 29, and will be streaming on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, and Audible, among other platforms each week. The first season features guests including children’s author **Jesse Byrd**; NASA Astronaut **Dr. Charles Camarda**; Olympic Bobsledder from Jamaica **Devon Harris**; Senior Group Manager at M&T Bank **Matt Petrula**; Award-winning playwright and director **Emily Mann**; Bank United Chief Operating Officer **Tom Cornish**; NCAA Chief Medical Officer **Dr. Brian Hainline**; award-winning author **Edwidge Danticat**; GRAMMY-nominated Co-Founder of Alphabet Rockers **Kaitlin McGaw**; and artist and civil rights activist **Pops Peterson**.

For the *Formative* trailer, please visit:

<https://podcasts.apple.com/us/podcast/formative/id1613742174>

### **About New York Edge**

New York Edge is a non-profit organization and the largest provider of afterschool and summer camp programs in all five boroughs of New York City. With 40,000 students in more than 100 schools in grades K-12, New York Edge bridges the opportunity gap faced by students in underinvested communities by strengthening academic performance, health and wellness, self-confidence, and leadership skills for success in life. [www.newyorkedge.org](http://www.newyorkedge.org)

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