



News

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New York City Students Launch New Season of *Formative* Podcast

Students from New York Edge co-host podcast, interview top leaders and executives;

Featured guests include former ambassador, Robinhood CEO & NBC Sports anchor

New York, NY – March 14, 2023 – [New York Edge](#) – the city’s largest provider of school-based afterschool and summer programs – today announced the launch of its third season of *Formative*, a podcast co-hosted by middle school students.

As part of the podcast, nine middle school students interview various leaders from fields ranging from business, arts, and media. 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 the student-led interview in which *Formative* guests reflect on their childhoods, career paths, and how they have overcome challenges both personally and professionally.

“We are proud to launch the next season of *Formative* and continue this important initiative that provides our students with the opportunity to build their confidence, gain fresh perspectives from diverse leaders, and visualize themselves in their dream field,” said **Rachael Gazdick, CEO of New York Edge**. “We are grateful to Macy’s for their generous support as our lead sponsor, and to our incredible guests for inspiring these students. We encourage everyone to tune in and hear the insightful conversations between our young people and these leaders.”

The participating students include:

- **Allyson**, an eighth-grade student at P.S. 083 The Donald Hertz School in the Bronx who is interested in pursuing a career in musical theater or law.

- **Sandesh**, an eighth-grade student at Collaborative Arts Middle School in Queens who enjoys STEM and math.
- **D'Angelo**, a seventh-grade student at Hellenic Classical Charter School in Brooklyn who has goals of becoming a psychiatrist.
- **Angel**, a seventh-grade student at Collaborative Arts Middle School in Queens whose favorite academic subject is math.
- **Rokiat**, a seventh-grade student at Hellenic Classical Charter School in Brooklyn who enjoys history, and has goals of pursuing a career as a singer and fashion designer.
- **Prianna**, a student at Community Voices Middle School in Queens who wants to become a lawyer or nurse.
- **Chanse**, a seventh-grade student at Community Voices Middle School in Queens who is interested in pursuing a career as a news reporter.
- **Christina**, a sixth-grade student from P.S. 452 Frederick Douglass Academy VIII in Manhattan who enjoys singing, dancing and drawing, and has goals of becoming a singer, dancer and artist.
- **Khody**, a student from P.S. 452 in Manhattan who hopes to become an actor.

The new season is sponsored by Macy's. *Formative* season three launches on March 14, and will be streaming on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, Google Play, and Audible, among other platforms each week. This season features guests including Senior Director of DEI Marketing & Community Partnerships at Macy's **Simone Harris-Laws**; former U.S. Ambassador to Switzerland and Liechtenstein **Suzan G. Levine**; Robinhood CEO **Richard Buery Jr.**; Emmy-Award winning WNBC sports anchor **John Chandler**; entrepreneur, musician and clothier **Amaury Grullon**; President of the Entertainment Software Ratings Board (ESRB) **Patricia Vance**; Broadway costumer and *Broadway Bears* designer **Islah Abdul-Rahim**; Executive Director of Chocobar Cortés **Carlos Cortés**; Host of Entrepreneur.com's How Success Happens Podcast **Robert Tuchman**; and children's author **Chrystal Giles**.

To listen to *Formative*, 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 and Long Island. With thousands of students in 116 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

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