



2003 NOTE
RELEASED

DEMOCRATS ON THE HOUSE OVERSIGHT
COMMITTEE RELEASED A SUGGESTIVE
LETTER TO JEFFREY EPSTEIN REPORTEDLY
SIGNED BY DONALD TRUMP. **B1**

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TRAVIS

New special education school
welcomes visit from chancellor

Melissa Aviles-Ramos, Chancellor of New York City Public Schools, is greeted by student Hakeem Walker and Principal Dr. Denise D'Anna, right, during a visit to Staten Island Rise Academy in Travis on Friday. Photos by Jan Somma-Hammel, Advance/SILive.com

“It was great to walk in and
to see happy children, to see
educators have what they
need to support them.”

Annalise Knudson
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For the first time in decades, a new District 75 school for special education students has opened on Staten Island, and New York City Schools Chancellor Melissa Aviles-Ramos recently toured the new facility.

Staten Island Rise Academy, also known as PS 89, is a District 75 school that opened in Travis, co-located with PS/I.S. 26 — at the original PS 26 building and the newly constructed building located just 1,000 feet away.

District 75 provides highly specialized instructional support for students with significant challenges, such as autism, significant cognitive delays, emotional disabilities, sensory impairments, and multiple disabilities.

“I think there hasn’t been a new District 75 school on Staten Island in over 30 years,” said Staten Island Rise Academy Principal Dr. Denise D’Anna. “It did come from parents in this area ... I’m ecstatic to be here.”

After passing a balloon arch outside the



Melissa Aviles-Ramos stopped in to meet students in the 3-5th grade class.

new school building, Aviles-Ramos was greeted by school staff and students, as well as D’Anna, PS/I.S. 26 Principal Stephanie Bassett, District 31 Superintendent Dr. Roderrick Palton, and other education officials.

“We have to prioritize special education,” said the chancellor. “When we think about the rise in numbers, we need to make sure that we are giving high-quality options to families, whether that is inclusive programs, if it’s [District] 75 slots.”

Aviles-Ramos looked around the facility, noting that teachers have the space and resources to support kids “in the best way possible.”

“It’s a welcoming environment where families can be partners with educators,” she added. “As we talk about wanting to support special education, we actually need to do the work from the operational to the logistical to the instructional to make sure that we’re providing those opportunities to families and children. So I’m immensely proud of this, especially here on Staten Island. This was a much-needed request from the community.”

Staten Island Rise Academy’s mission is to “empower every student to reach their full potential by providing personalized instruction and tailored support in a nurturing, inclusive environment.” Its core values represent RISE — resilience, independence, self-advocacy, and empowerment. This is achieved by recognizing and celebrating each student’s unique strengths and fostering independence, self-advocacy, and social-emotional growth.

“In terms of the individualized instruction, you’ll see small classes ... What is remarkable about the individualized instruction is that our students are benefiting from New York City Reads in District 75 just as our students in their district schools

SEE TRAVIS, A2

MIDDLESEX COUNTY,
NEW JERSEY

Girlfriend, 19,
charged in fatal
crash sought out
help, lawyer says

*The mother of the Great Kills
man who died in the wreck
says she has no sympathy
for the defendant.*

Kyle Lawson klawson@siadvance.com

A Staten Island woman charged with fleeing a fatal crash in New Jersey allegedly caused by drag racing will be found “innocent” of the charges, and her “life is not over,” her attorney told the Advance/SILive.com.

Emily Harrington, 19, is charged with hindering, obstruction and conspiracy to endanger another in connection with the June 29 wreck on the Garden State Parkway. Her then-boyfriend, 20-year-old Alvi Limani of Staten Island, was behind the wheel of a BMW X3 SUV that night, prosecutors said. He faces charges that include aggravated manslaughter and vehicular homicide.

Prosecutors said the couple fled the scene, after two other passengers were thrown from the vehicle. One of them, a Staten Island man, was pronounced dead at a New Jersey hospital. The other man

SEE WRECK, A2

CHARLESTON

CB3 meeting
on proposed
truck terminal
tomorrow night

Jessica Jones-Gorman
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Community Board 3 is expecting a sizable community turnout at Wednesday’s Land Use Committee meeting, related to what is being dubbed as a controversial “truck stop” proposal.

“These meetings are open to the public,” said a CB3 representative.

Originally slated to be held at board offices in Woodrow, the meeting will instead be held at the Stolzenhaler Knights of Columbus Hall at 100 Kreischer St. It will begin at 7 p.m.

“We want to make sure everyone can attend and speak,” the rep said. “People have been talking about this issue on social media; we wanted to be proactive and make sure we have enough space.”

The rep was referring to the main topic

SEE PROPOSAL, A2



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