

'A relationship of true respect'

Partnership rejuvenates charter, city school



Jen Codispoti works with her first-grade students at School 8 on word dissection.
PHOTOS BY JAMIE GERMANO/@JGERMANO1/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

Justin Murphy Rochester Democrat and Chronicle | USA TODAY NETWORK

Nina Delgado shuffled three story cards with a flourish and laid them out on the table for the four people in front of her to see. They spelled out a short sentence but were all jumbled up. ■ “How do I figure out how they’re supposed to go?” she asked with a sigh. ■ Three of her tablemates, kindergartners at Roberto Clemente School 8, pointed out that the pictures on the cards indicated the order. The fourth didn’t answer but scribbled down notes.



Jean Hurst, a visiting teacher from Genesee Community Charter School, reads with kindergarten student Anthony McMillan at School 8.

She was Daisy Spencer, a kindergarten teacher visiting from Genesee Community Charter School. The children were learning about stringing sentences together; Spencer was learning about how they were learning it.

“Sometimes just being in the room, you see some little nuance that can create an ‘aha moment,’” she said. “And teachers don’t always have time for that.”

School 8, on St. Paul Street, and GCCS, on the Rochester Museum & Science Center campus, are in the second year of a partnership that’s unique in Monroe County. They’re using a three-year, \$500,000 state grant to jointly adopt an early literacy curriculum and provide each other peer mentoring and targeted professional development.

It’s the most prominent example of collaboration between RCSD and a charter school, and everyone

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