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FOR RELEASE

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“A” Great Report for a Great School!

***Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment Receives Grade of A
on Latest Department of Education Progress Report***

Brooklyn, NY — The Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE), a "small" public high school in Prospect Heights/Crown Heights, received a grade of “A” on its NYC Department of Education 2009-10 Progress Report.

BASE emphasizes close collaboration between students, staff, parents, and its founding community partners, Brooklyn Botanic Garden and the Prospect Park Alliance, in order to create an optimum learning environment. The school, with just under 500 students, saw marked improvement in all key grading categories, including “Student Progress” (from a “C” in the previous year’s report to a “B” in the current report), and “Student Performance” (from a “B” in the previous year’s report, to “A” in the current report).

"It's so wonderful - but not surprising - that BASE earned an "A" on its report card," said Tupper Thomas, President of the Prospect Park Alliance. "Principal Veronica Peterson and the teachers at BASE really encourage students to feel empowered by what they are learning -- and they are! The students who come to the Park and Garden for their field work are motivated and intellectually curious."

Brooklyn Botanic Garden President, Scot Medbury stated, “This latest accolade underscores the tremendous progress in improving academic opportunities for NYC youth made possible through partnerships with the DOE and community partners. All of us at the Garden are certain that the next generation of environmental stewards will emerge, in part, from BASE.”

Founded in 2003, BASE offers one of the strongest science and environmental study experiences available to NYC students. For field research BASE students have access to BBG’s gardens, conservatory, herbarium, and library, as well as the opportunity to work with scientists in the Garden’s DNA-sequencing laboratory. At Prospect Park, BASE students conduct field studies in the park’s natural areas with curriculum developed and led by Park educational staff working with BASE teachers.

Photo Caption: “BASE Students.jpg” - Students from the Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment conduct field research at the Brooklyn Botanic Garden. **Photo Credit:** BASE

Brooklyn Academy of Science and the Environment (BASE) High School is a New Century High School, created in collaboration with Brooklyn Botanic Garden, the Prospect Park Alliance, New Visions for Public Schools, the New York City Department of Education, the United Federation of Teachers, and the Council of School Supervisors & Administrators, with support from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, and the Open Society Institute. BASE benefits from a strong collaboration with Audubon New York. BASE also receives support from Con Edison, the John N. and Gillett A. Gilbert Family Fund, Lehman Brothers Foundation, and the New York City Environmental Fund.

For more information visit: bbg.org/edu/base.html | www.prospectpark.org/base