



**For Immediate Release: September 4, 2024**

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## **Ribbon-Cutting Event at Dr. David and Ruth Anderson Academy School No. 16**

### **Who:**

Dr. David and Ruth Anderson  
Ryan Clair, Principal of School No. 16  
Students and staff from School No. 16

### **What:**

Ribbon-Cutting Event at Dr. David and Ruth Anderson Academy School No. 16

### **When:**

Friday, September 6, 2024, 2 p.m.

### **Where:**

Dr. David and Ruth Anderson Academy School No. 16 (formerly John Walton Spencer School No. 16)  
321 Post Avenue  
Rochester, NY 14619

### **Details:**

In September 2023, the Board of Education voted to rename John Walton Spencer School No. 16 in honor of Dr. David and Ruth Anderson.

Dr. David Anderson, a renowned Frederick Douglass historian, has an incredible legacy of making long-term contributions to the public understanding and appreciation of African American history, culture, and heritage. A former visiting scholar at Nazareth University’s School of Education and the College of Arts and Sciences, Anderson has received the Liberty Medal, which is New York’s highest civilian honor given to recipients for lifetime achievement and exceptional community acts. He has built strong relationships in Rochester through his work with the Urban League of Rochester and Action for a Better Community.

Ruth Anderson, an elementary teacher in the Rochester City School District for 23 years, earned her teaching certification from the University of Rochester and a Master of Science Degree in Education from Nazareth University. During her teaching career in Rochester, she produced educational materials, including the multimedia interactive curriculum “Our Stories/Our Selves 19th Century Afro-Rochester.” She has served as Executive Director of AKWAABA: the Heritage Associates, Inc., a non-profit educational organization founded in 1999 to perpetuate the history of the Underground Railroad in the Rochester area.

The celebration will feature former student Antonia Wynter, who attended School No. 16 during Dr. Anderson’s visits in the 1990s. Additionally, the school is announcing new partnerships with the ROC Royal Foundation, which will offer after-school programs for youth and families, and Tru-Impact providing tutoring for math and reading. The 19th Ward Community Association will also be participating by reading to students both during school hours and in the after-school program.