



February 6, 2024

Dear Parent/Guardians:

It is an honor to introduce myself as the new Interim Principal of Lawrence Elementary School. As an educator, I have been deeply committed to ensuring that all students in my charge receive the highest level of targeted instruction and social emotional development. I believe in fostering a positive and inclusive school culture that celebrates student success, promotes citizenship, and values the thoughts and beliefs of all. I am humbled and excited about the days to come as we prepare for the second half of the school year.

During my 30 years as an educator, I have served 22 of those years in administrative leadership on the Elementary, Middle and High school levels. More than a third of my career has been working as the Lawrence Middle School principal for grades 5-8. This shift in leadership feels more like a homecoming which helps to ease anxiety as well as any transitional concerns that some leaders and staff may encounter. Mrs. DiFilippi, assistant principal, has already forged great relationships and her leadership will continue to be valuable throughout this transition. My goal is to help teachers and students maximize their abilities and/or potential by providing ongoing learning opportunities. I am confident that through communication and collaboration, we can build upon the already existing culture of academic success.

Recently, I took advantage of being across the hallway at the middle school and took a sneak peek into an LES classroom. The energy and the enthusiasm to learn was evident as students look to celebrate successful moments. Our teachers are doing an amazing job engaging our students and encouraging them to dig deeper into the concepts being presented. In the coming days, I plan to meet with our students to introduce myself to them. It is especially important in the days to come that we work together to support our children as New York State testing is fast approaching. Rest assured, our teachers will continue to use best practices along with strategies that help to ensure greater understanding and success.

This seamless adjustment within leadership will help to align our overarching goals for the district. Moreover, our school's core values will remain consistent with students being respectful and showing integrity. Each of us becomes extremely instrumental in facilitating these values as we go forward in the months to come. I look forward to our partnership in which we can continue to expand on our resources throughout the community.

Thank you for your anticipated cooperation, and I look forward to meeting you at the next PTA event as well as our Parent-Teacher conference which is scheduled for March 21st. If you have any questions and/or concerns, please call LES main office at (516) 812-6122.

Respectfully,

Willis Perry

Principal, I.A.

Lawrence Elementary School