

July 2014

Dear Peekskill Middle School Families,

My name is Jamal Lewis and I am delighted to be part of the Peekskill Middle School community as I assume the role of Principal. Over the last several weeks, I have spent time getting to know the building, talking with faculty and the school community, and educating myself on what makes PKMS such a unique and special place and the instructional and academic directions we will journey toward. PKMS is a place where strong connections are made between the home and school and where all staff members are committed to developing the whole child. I value these characteristics and am excited to help continue moving PKMS along the path of excellence.

Professionally, I have been in education for seventeen years and have had the great privilege to work with and supervise dedicated and talented instructors, engaging students, and concerned and involved parents. Additionally, my experience has led me to write curricula and grants, establish protocols, improve schools' performances, and build trust with the school community.

Perhaps one of the most important aspects of my work as PKMS's principal will be building solid relationships with students, families, and faculty. In doing so, instruction, student engagement, learning, and achievement will be enhanced.

Middle school students appreciate a person who genuinely invests in them and who is fair in decision making. Throughout the interview process, I tried to convey a sense of transparency about who I am as a person and educator, what I believe in, what drives me, and how I will proceed in setting priorities for teaching, learning, and effective leadership.

Communication is paramount in a school. For this reason, you are encouraged to contact your child's teacher, guidance counselor, or administration with questions or concerns.

I feel very fortunate to be following Dr. Fine as the principal of Peekskill Middle School. He has taken great pride in everything he's done here, and it's evident by the conversations we have had and the many great programs and practices that are in place. Dr. Fine and I will continue to communicate and collaborate so that this becomes a seamless transition for students, faculty, and families.

Peekskill Middle School is a school that has many things to be proud of. I thank you in advance for welcoming me as a part of this great community, and I will dedicate myself to ensuring continued and enhanced success.

Sincerely,

Jamal Lewis
Principal