

Dear Parents and Friends,

It is with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I write this letter of introduction to you as your new High School Principal at ***Pontiac Academy for Excellence***. I am truly honored to become part of a community, which has already given me such a warm welcome! In just the few interactions I've had with staff, students and families so far, it's become abundantly clear that this school is a unique and special place.

This summer, I have been spending much of my time getting to know the building, the school's community and familiarizing myself with the Pontiac Academies School Improvement Goals. In doing so, I've learned that PAE is a place where strong connections are made between home and school and staff members are committed to developing the whole child.

Professionally, I possess over 22 years of experience in the field of education and am licensed as an Elementary Teacher, Bilingual/Bicultural education, as well as; Educational Leadership and an endorsement in Superintendence. Motivated by my positive experiences in school, I received my Bachelor's degree in elementary education from the University of Michigan and spent 16 years teaching 4th grade. I went on to earn my first Master of Education degree in English as a Second Language and became a Supervisor in Affective Education. Soon after, I decided to become an administrator based on my strong desire to positively impact an entire school community. I pursued my second Master of Education degree in School Administration at Wayne State University and gained invaluable experience as an interim principal in an urban district. Later, I pursued and advanced even further to the Michigan Leadership Institute where I did extensive studies on pursuing future endeavors in Superintendent in the state of Michigan. However, it may be more important for you to know that I am the parent of three children as well. I fully understand the challenges and rewards you face every day as you work to ensure your child has the best educational experience.

One of the most important aspects of my work here at PAE will be building strong relationships with students, teachers and families. You'll find me in the hallways, classrooms and at special activities. My passion has been and always will be educating students. With that in mind, you can expect that I will work diligently with teachers to make sure our students are exposed to curriculum and instruction that is both engaging and challenging. I have an open door policy and welcome your input and ideas. I'm looking forward to meeting each of you as we start this new and exciting year together!

Sincerely,

Nada Makki-Berry

High School Principal

Pontiac Academy for Excellence