July 17, 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians of Dora Kennedy French Immersion,

It is with great pride and excitement that I write this letter of introduction to you as the newly appointed Acting Principal of Dora Kennedy French Immersion School. I am humbled and honored to have the opportunity to lead a school community that has a rich history of academics, student enrichment, parent involvement, and tradition!

So, who is this school leader before you? I am a native Virginian, a husband, father of 3, veteran, mentor, and a 3rd generation educator. I mention this last attribute to communicate that education is the family craft, and I was immersed into educational theory and pedagogy before I could walk. This lifelong immersion has allowed me to gain a great respect for this vocation and push me to perfect my craft through modeling the concept of the lifelong learner. An attribute we will promote and steward within our Cardinal scholars.

I have earned a Bachelor of Arts in History Education, Master of Arts in Educational Leadership and Curriculum & Instruction, and have completed 2 years of coursework towards my Ph.D. I am coming to DKFI after a brief one school year stint at Suitland High School in the role of Assistant Principal. Prior to Suitland High School, I have worked intentionally and intimately within the language Immersion space for a number of years; serving as the French Immersion administrator at Central High School. These experiences coupled with my background of being a former Middle School Principal at a Project Based Learning school has primed me for this opportunity.

Along with the teachers and staff, I will work hard to continue the legacy of success established by DKFI by building strong relationships with staff, parents, students and community partners. We will focus on increasing French language proficiency in all students, College and Career Readiness, and fostering positive and collaborative character practices.

It is important to me that everyone involved in Dora Kennedy French Immersion feel connected, welcomed, and excited to be a part of the team! This mindset will enable us to meet the challenges of academic excellence through a positive, enjoyable, and caring environment.

There will be a virtual Meet and Greet on Wednesday July 22nd at 5:45pm to provide the opportunity for us to kick this partnership off the right way. Please plan on joining us!

I look forward to working with you as a collaborative team and family to help each student at Dora Kennedy French Immersion reach their academic and developmental goals.

Sincerely,

James A. Spence II, M Ed.
Acting Principal of Dora Kennedy French Immersion