

*Innovation • Inspiration • Excellence for All*

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**Dr. Edwin M. Quezada**  
Superintendent of Schools

**RoseAnne Collins-Judon**  
Assistant Superintendent  
Secondary Administration

**Rodney Arthur**  
Principal  
Yonkers Middle High School

August 21, 2022

Dear Parents and Guardians:

As principal of Yonkers Middle High School, it is with great enthusiasm that I welcome our returning and new students and families to our school family.

While YMHS is comprised of two outstanding programs serving students at the middle and high school levels, we have one motto, *Committed to Excellence, Creating Scholars and Leaders Every Day*.

We are a school built on foundation of pride and traditions wherein we set high expectations for our scholars. Our dedicated and experienced faculty and staff put children first, create a safe and nurturing school community by providing a venue for our scholars' voice, and a myriad of opportunities to explore, discover, learn and lead.

Students are challenged to think critically, apply 21st Century skills (*problem solving, reasoning, analysis, interpretation, synthesizing information*) to texts, leverage technology, and apply these skills beyond the classroom setting thus solving real world problems. We are committed, as a faculty, to equity, embracing our diverse student body and providing students with unique experiences. This spring a group of students in grades 11 and 12 will visit Iceland. Additional information about the trip to Iceland will be posted on the YMHS webpage, which will continue to serve as a central point of communicating information to parents about school related events.

As a school community, the partnership we share with our parents and guardians is essential to the success of our scholars and the achievement of the YMHS motto. Parents are encouraged get involved in school events and to support the school by joining our amazing PTSA led by Mrs. Danielle Dourmashkin. The support of PTSA directly benefits our entire school community and enhance the learning experience of students. Please become a member. For additional information about the PTSA, please visit the YMHS webpage and select the tab marked Family or select the follow link: <https://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/domain/4027>. The PTSA membership form is included.

According to the U. S. News and World Report, Yonkers High School is nationally ranked #631; and #64 in New York State. The assessment results of our middle school students from the June administration of the New York State English Language Arts and Mathematics increased from the 2020-21 school year. Let's continue to work as one in support of our children.

As you prepare to return your child to school on **Tuesday, September 6<sup>th</sup>**, it is not only important to discuss setting goals and outlining steps to achieve them, but it is vitally important you spend time discussing the pitfalls of social media. Specifically, students need to understand the importance of being responsible when using social media – *If you post it, you own it!* While having a trusting relationship with our children is essential, don't relinquish your responsibilities as parents.

We, as a school community, need to continue to inform our children of the harmful effects of vaping and the long-term impact on their health. For additional information and resources, please see the attached link from the CDC, [https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic\\_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young](https://www.cdc.gov/tobacco/basic_information/e-cigarettes/Quick-Facts-on-the-Risks-of-E-cigarettes-for-Kids-Teens-and-Young). For in school support, feel free to contact your child's grade-level administrators:

Grades 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. M. Vancol, [mvancol@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:mvancol@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Grades 6<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup>, Ms. S. Sharif, [ssharif@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ssharif@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Grade 9<sup>th</sup>, Mr. D. Mack, [dmack@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:dmack@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Grade 10<sup>th</sup>, Ms. D. Williams, [dwilliams2@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:dwilliams2@yonkerspublicschools.org)

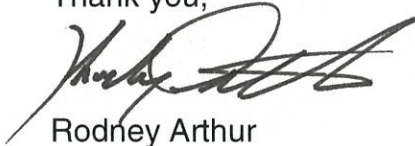
Grade 11<sup>th</sup>, Ms. S. Branchcomb, [sbranchcomb@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:sbranchcomb@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Grade 12<sup>th</sup>, Mrs. Y. Leon, [yleon@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:yleon@yonkerspublicschools.org)

Adopting good habits from the start of school is a key component of a successful student plan. With this in mind, scholars are expected to arrive to school **no later than 7:30 a.m.** Classes begin promptly at **7:45 a.m.** When dropping off or picking up your child from school, you are asked to drive slowly and be mindful of other children in the area. We are a school community that cares about the safety of **ALL** children. While the heat of the summer months is still with us, students are expected to wear appropriate dress attire which is consistent with the Yonkers School District Code of Conduct.

As I enter into my second year as principal of Yonkers Middle High School, I am honored and thankful to Board President Rev. Steve Lopez, Board Trustees and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Edwin Quezada for the opportunity to continue to serve the Yonkers school community. Feel free to contact me at 914-376-8191 or [rarthur@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:rarthur@yonkerspublicschools.org).

Thank you,



Rodney Arthur