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Dear FLPS Parents & Students,

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School Year! Hope your summer break was relaxing, restful, and rejuvenating and you are excited to get back to work. My name is Natasha Denson Derico, but my co-workers and students call me Ms. D. I was born in Fort Lauderdale, Florida and raised in Lauderhill. I attended Lauderhill Paul Turner Elementary, Lauderhill Middle School, and Blanche Ely High School.

After graduating, I attended The Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida where I earned my Bachelors of Science Degree in English Education. My professional career began where my high school years ended, as I returned to Blanche Ely High School as a high school English Instructor. I taught English at Blanche Ely High School for four years then relocated to Port Saint Lucie, Florida where I taught high school English for the next nine years before returning to South Florida. Besides teaching high school, I work as a private tutor for ages 3 to adult and complete my most precious job of mother to my two daughters. I am excited and eager about working with you all here at Fort Lauderdale Preparatory School and know that together we can and will be successful.

Parents, you are my co-workers. We are going to work together along side with the FLPS administrative team to ensure that we are all doing what is absolute best for our students. We are going to be a cohesive, collaborative group that communicates efficiently and effectively to guarantee our students' success.

Students, you are Ms. D's partners. We are going to partner up and follow the guidance of our FLPS administrative team to ensure that we succeed as team. Your success is my success and vice versa. We are on this educational journey together and it is my sincere hope that we will maneuver through it with respect, love, intellect, and complete responsibility.

As your co-worker and teammate, I will be professional, respectful, educate with care, provide structure, and be supportive. Together we will make great things happen as well as experience tremendous success!!! I am excited and hope that you are too.

Teachingly yours,

Ms. Natasha Denson Derico, Ms. D.