

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Dr. Jeannie Paz

Principal

Meet the WOK Middle School Principal, Dr. Jeannie Paz:

Hello WOK families! My name is Jeannie Paz. As the new Principal and leadership of WOK Middle School, I look forward to forming new relationships, creating sustainable change and leading our WOK scholars on an empowering path towards academic achievement and success.

We enter this new academic year with great expectations, determination and focus as we keep our eyes on the prize! It is my hope that we will be embarking on this journey together as one united school family driven by one common goal, to make all of our students successful.

I intend to promote a school culture that is inclusive and celebrates diversity & cultural pluralism. I want to provide a comprehensive educational program that is rigorous and nurtures our students' social and emotional development so that all our students can truly grow and thrive. My goals for WOK during the 2019-2020 school year are as follows:

- To develop a school culture that mirrors the democratic society we desire – it is my belief that we accomplish this in (2) steps: first by establishing positive relationships to ensure that all staff and students feel valued. This is crucial to ensure that staff and students understand their critical role in this transformational process. The second step involves the integration of multicultural education and the implementation of culturally responsive teaching in daily instructional practices.
- To increase student academic achievement in the areas of ELA and Math. To support us in this goal, I have developed a comprehensive school plan that implements various instructional strategies focused on increasing student performance in both areas. These strategies include an afterschool tutoring program to run from October 2019 through June 2020. We will also be offering a Saturday academy to provide additional support in Math and ELA for students in need of improvement to start after Winter recess. A final strategy is creating and utilizing quarterly benchmark assessments to establish authentic data that will help us to better drive instruction in the classroom.
- My final goal for WOK targets decreasing the chronic absenteeism rate, and I cannot accomplish this goal without the help and support of my WOK parents and families. I am a firm believer that *'it takes a village to raise a child'*, and I understand the power of a united school family that is focused on the same goal and works together to accomplish it.

At WOK we are committed to keeping student achievement and holistic growth as our highest priorities. All of our hard work at WOK will be to serve **our mission:** "to provide a safe, dynamic environment in which students develop the academic and social skills needed to succeed in an ever-changing, global society." We will accomplish this mission by engaging families and the community, encouraging character development, and ensuring a rigorous, relevant curriculum and culture for all.

You can help your child succeed by setting aside time every night for homework, by checking the parent portal at least once a week, and by contacting the school right away with any questions or concerns. We appreciate your support in ensuring your child attends school on time every day in proper uniform, and by

regularly connecting with your child's teachers. I extend to you my personal best wishes for your child's success and development at WOK!

Educationally Yours,
Dr. Jeannie Paz
Principal

“The future belongs to those who prepare for it today.”
– *Malcolm X*

Educational Background

MA in History - Rutgers University, anticipated completion date 2021
Ed. D. in Curriculum, Instruction and Leadership - Northeastern University, 2019
MA in Educational Leadership - New Jersey City University, 2015
MAT in Secondary Social Studies - Fairleigh Dickinson University, 2008
BA in History/African Studies - William Paterson University, 2006