



May 7, 2026

Dear Benjamin Banneker Middle School Students, Staff and Families:

This afternoon the Montgomery County Board of Education appointed Ms. Lisa Shorts as the next principal of Benjamin Banneker Middle School. Ms. Shorts brings a wealth of experience, a passion for education, and a strong commitment to student success that will enrich our school community.

Ms. Shorts began her career in education as a paraeducator, and then a high school English teacher. She not only taught but also served as an English Resource teacher. Her leadership and expertise in the classroom prepared her for the transition to school administration. As an assistant principal at White Oak Middle School and Silver Spring International Middle School, she demonstrated exceptional leadership skills and a deep understanding of the needs of both students and staff.

Ms. Shorts served as the principal intern at Argyle Middle School and was acting principal at Waters Landing Elementary School. In both assignments, Ms. Shorts played a pivotal role in fostering a positive and inclusive school environment. Her experience in education at all three levels coupled with her collaborative approach, has made a lasting impact on the communities she has served. In 2022, Ms. Shorts was appointed principal of Eastern Middle School, where she continued to demonstrate steady, student-centered leadership and a commitment to excellence in teaching and learning. Across each of her roles, she has been known as a thoughtful leader who listens carefully, values collaboration, and works purposefully to support both academic achievement and the well-being of students and staff.

Throughout her career, Ms. Shorts has shown an unwavering belief in the power of strong relationships, high expectations, and inclusive school cultures. Her broad experience across elementary, middle, and high school settings provides her with a unique and valuable perspective that will serve the Benjamin Banneker Middle School community well.

I want to extend my gratitude to the staff and community members who participated in the principal selection process. In the coming months, Ms. Shorts looks forward to meeting students, staff, families, and community partners and to working together to build on the many strengths of Benjamin Banneker Middle School. Her leadership reflects our shared vision for a positive school climate, strong instructional practices, and meaningful partnerships with families.

Please join me in warmly welcoming Ms. Lisa Shorts to the Benjamin Banneker Middle School community. I am confident that under her leadership, Banneker will continue to grow as a place where students thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

Sincerely,
Jewel Sanders
Jewel Sanders
Director