



# REGIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CHILDREN AND ADOLESCENTS

15000 Broschart Road • Rockville, Maryland 20850

PHONE: 301-251-6900 • FAX: 301-251-6906

Office of the Principal

August 9, 2021

Dear RICA Families-

Welcome to the 2021-2022 school year. I am the Acting Principal for the year and I am excited to be a Royal and working with you. As we re engage with school a new year after being out of school for over 15 months I know it will be different but we can do it. We are RICA!

My focus this year will be "Continuing Excellence with E.Q.U.I.T.Y." E.Q.U.I.T.Y stands for **Engaging** educational experiences that are inviting and exciting for all students. Students will build stronger relationships with peers and staff. All students will receive high **Quality** Instruction every day in all classes. We will approach this with **Understanding** of what we have been through, a pandemic, and how we adapt and lean in to our new normal. We will be **Intentional** in the work aligning the initiatives and programs to meet the needs of our community. Lastly, this is a **Total** commitment to focus on the whole child, staff, and community all **Year Long**. We are Royals and we can do this together!

### **What's been happening this summer?**

Our Extended School Year Program (ESY) was a big success. We had 21 students participate. All students made progress and we celebrated the end of the program with a pizza party. Congratulations Royals!

### **What's new this year?**

This year we have new programming for our students. We are now an Accelerated and Enriched Instruction school which focuses on students' learning may be enriched and accelerated; and, students may participate in advanced-level coursework at their local schools. Instruction is differentiated to provide all students appropriate pacing and support necessary for advanced-level learning. Our staff has been working hard to provide high quality lessons that are engaging for all students.

We have added two new Advanced Placement Classes this year to the high school, AP Language and Composition and AP Spanish. We will continue to provide high level challenging classes to our high school students to prepare them for life after high school.

We have a new Self Development Program called The RISE Program which stands for RICA Individualized Stages of Enrichment. " This program is designated to promote positive social and emotional personal growth, utilizing staff guidance, support and education to emphasize student awareness, accountability and self-responsibility for all RICA students." (cited from



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Student Handbook). Students will have an opportunity to learn about the new program during the first week of school orientation period.

Finally, as a district we are focusing on Equity in all schools. This summer the Instructional Leadership team made up of teacher leaders looked at policies and practices at RICA and how we approach the work differently to support all students. We need student and parent participation and input as we look to make RICA better than ever for all students, staff and our community. Please look for more information about how you can be involved in our Equity work coming soon.

### **Please welcome new staff joining the RICA team:**

<b>Nadia Kline-Taylor</b>	<b>Assistant Principal</b>
<b>Julie Pierre</b>	<b>Elementary Teacher</b>
<b>Morgan McNab</b>	<b>ParaEducator</b>
<b>Jessica Douglass</b>	<b>Math Teacher</b>

We are so excited to welcome your child back to school. Please begin working with them on the following:

- To begin getting a good night's rest
- To be ready to attend to school daily, on time and ready to learn
- To complete all assignments for classes
- To ask for help when they need it
- To know they have your unconditional support

Lastly, our Back to School Night will be held on **Thursday, September 9th from 6:00- 7:30 pm.** This will be an opportunity for you to meet the teachers and learn what's happening at RICA.

Let's get ready for an awesome year at RICA! Please contact me with any questions at [jada\\_langston@mcpsmd.org](mailto:jada_langston@mcpsmd.org).

All My Best,

*Jada L. Langston*  
Acting Principal



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