



**WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL**  
Executive Director's Message

To All Our Students and Families:

Welcome back to returning students and families and welcome to all our new students and families! We are excited that New Dawn Charter High School is entering its third year of operation. Over the past two years we have learned some very valuable lessons and we want to let you know some of the new initiatives that we are implementing at the School moving forward. We have started a new campaign in an effort to help students and families understand what New Dawn stands for and how we view education. Our motto is: *New Dawn Goes Back to the Three R's: Responsibility, Respect, Resilience.*

What this means for students is that you must **Respect** yourself and each other enough to believe that you have the RIGHT to a high quality education that results in a New York diploma. However, with this right there are many **Responsibilities** which will be reviewed throughout the year, but it basically means that you come to class and internship on time every day when scheduled, that you **Respect** your teachers and fellow classmates in class, and that you are **Resilient** enough do your best every day. If problems occur, you show the **Responsibility, Respectfulness, and Resiliency** to get up, dust yourself off, and try your best again. You must have embody enough of the **3 R's** that you will continue to try until you succeed. If you follow this model, we guarantee you will graduate and be successful.

To support you in your academic journey, we have also had made many changes in staffing this year which will make the School stronger. In terms of administration, Ms. Jackson has been promoted to the Assistant Principal for Student Support and Mr. Mimnaugh has been hired as the Assistant Principal for Teacher Support who will also be teaching the ELL class.



Expect to see them in your classrooms regularly. They are here to help both you and your teachers to ensure that you receive the best education in the best possible setting.

In terms of support staff, Ms. Fields (Ms. Kim) will transition to the Parent Coordinator this year along with taking over many of the office duties such as metro cards, letters, recruitment, and enrollment. Ms. Ross has been promoted to the position of Internship Coordinator and she will work closely with Mr. Asher and Mr. Paden. Mr. Wolf (Mr. Mike) has been hired as the School Assistant. Expect to see him in classrooms, at lunch time and in the hallways moving people along. Families, expect to hear from Ms. Fields, Ms. Ross, and Mr. Wolf on a regular basis through phone, email, and mail.

In terms of instruction and academics, we have made some great changes. Congratulations to all the students and teachers on a very successful summer! This summer the number of students who passed the Regents exams was higher than ever. This was not an accident, over the last two years we have learned some things about instruction and have made some changes. I have outlined those changes by subject area.

**PE and Health**

Even though Mr. Asher did a fantastic job with the PE classes this summer, for the coming year we will be joined by Ms. Maiorini who comes with extensive experience in other charter schools. The students who participated in her demo lesson learned quite a bit about PE and physical activity and we will have a fun, active year with Ms. Maiorini. We look forward to different types of activities and programs through our improved PE/Health program.



### **Sciences**

This summer, 70% of the students who took the Living Environment Regents exam passed! Both Mr. Flory and Mr. Suel are returning next year. Mr. Flory will be teaching Living Environment and Anatomy. Mr. Suel will be teaching Earth Science and Forensics.

### **Math**

The Algebra Regents results were not as high as we would have liked them. So this year Mr. Lopez and Ms. Spaziani will be joining us to teach math. They both will be excellent additions to the school. Mr. Lopez has extensive experience working with students of all ages who think they do not like math. By using real world applications he is able to help students understand the joy of mathematics. Ms. Spaziani, who already started work this summer, will be teaching a Math Lab class this year, as well as pushing into other classes to assist other teachers. She too has extensive experience working in other charter schools helping students learn to love the basics of math. We know that you will all become Mathletes in the near future.

### **ELA**

This summer, 75% of the students who took the Common Core ELA Regents passed! Students who took the old Comprehensive ELA Regents did not do that well so going forward we will only be offering the Common Core ELA Regents at New Dawn. The good news is that Mr. Carlic will be returning to teach READ 180, Writing, and ELA Regents classes. We will be adding Ms. Salony, who has extensive experience working in private schools and teaching both ELA and History. She loves literature so you will be reading some fascinating new books and stories. Mrs. Mihaljevic (or Mrs. M, as I am sure we will call her), will be teaching an ELA Lab



class this year, as well as pushing into other classes to assist other teachers. She comes to us from Phnom Penh, Cambodia, so expect some exciting stories.

### **Global History**

This summer, 51% of the students who took the Global History Regents Exam passed. A great improvement from prior semesters, but we look forward to getting even better with the changes in our Social Studies department. This year Mr. Lewis will be joining us. He has experience in other charter schools and loves history. Mr. Lewis understands that Social Studies must have some relevance in your lives to make it interesting, so get ready to learn about world history and to love it.

### **U.S. History and Government**

This summer 66% of the students who took the US History Regents passed, and they passed with very high scores! This was a huge increase from prior semesters, and because of this, Mr. Walters will move from Economics and push-ins to become our full-time History and Civics teacher. Congratulations to Mr. Walters, I know prior students have really enjoyed his classes and you all will as well.

### **Advisories**

We have all the usual suspects still teaching advisories, although this year Ms. Ross will be assisting in the College NOW class at New Dawn. Ms. Bryant will be joining us to teach advisories as well. She will also work as our permanent substitute teacher throughout the year so that having a teacher absent means absolutely no excuse for down time. Ms. Bryant will be with us every day and will be pushing into classes. She has extensive experience working in other high schools in NYC and is getting her Master's Degree in Education right now.



So please welcome all our new staff and teachers when you come back. We are still in the process of interviewing for three other teaching positions (Math, Global Studies, and Advisories) and I will update this page as we identify these individuals.

In the meantime, we look forward to seeing all of you on September 4 or September 5. Please come and pick up your schedule (returning students), sit with one of us and develop your schedule (new students), meet with the Internship Coordinators and Senior Advisors, and get your metro cards. Official full-time school starts on Monday, September 8.

We all look forward to a very productive, successful year and we welcome you all to New Dawn Charter High School.

**Dr. A**