



Nathaniel Hawthorne Middle School 74

“Soaring from Good to Great and Beyond”

Mr. Brandon Contarsy
Principal, IA

Mr. Brett Cluff, Dr. Paul DeSimone, Mr. Matthew Paolano & Ms. Lisa Perlstein
Assistant Principals

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TEAM 74 Community,

My name is Brandon Contarsy, and it is with great humility and boundless optimism that I send this welcome message to you today.

I come to you as your new principal starting my seventeenth year in the New York City Department of Education, having just spent the past five years as a member of Superintendent Giunta's team. Working out of the District Office in room 129, I have walked our halls party to the greatness of the school, but only as a partial partner in what makes MS 74 an amazing school. In conversations from the past week alone, it is clear to me that the persistent excellence of this school has not developed by accident. I look forward to continuing in partnership with all of you to sustain the work championed by the leadership of Mr. Armstrong, and made possible by all of you.



Every child deserves the best, right opportunities to become their best self. Children deserve schools that embrace their worlds, and leverage their beauty as a channel to their potential. It is my belief that Middle School 74 has all the pieces to make this happen for our students.

These are uncertain times. We are tasked with being the stewards of a community (a city, a nation) beset by twin pandemics. I know you have many wonderings about a great many things related to our school's reopening and what the fall will look like. We are not alone in this lack of clarity. What I can promise you is that no decision will be made in isolation, or without the consultation of all relevant stakeholders. I look forward to engaging you with questions that invite dialogue, hearing you all for where you are on your respective journeys, and viewing our work on a continuum. I believe that this approach will be critical to ensuring that all of us are moving in the same direction as we move from good to great, and beyond.

To ensure that you feel connecting to what's going on at the school, we will be hosting three Tuesday Community Conversations with the Principal on **7/14**, **7/21**, and **8/4**. Be sure to be on the lookout for the Zoom login information.

As a reminder, The NYC Department of Education has made e-books and audiobooks for all ages available for free this summer to all families via the Sora reading app. Summer reading is vital to keeping the love of learning alive. Visit schools.nyc.gov/summerreading to see what's available.

Together, we will make the best decisions for our school community so that we may continue to soar. Between now and when more information is available (and beyond that), if there is anything that's on your mind, we are here for you.

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(he/him/his)
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