



MAMARONECK UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

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News Release

JENNY RODRIGUEZ APPOINTED NEW ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL AT MHS

MAMARONECK, NY, April 20, 2016 – At last night’s Board of Education meeting, the Superintendent recommended – and the Board approved – the appointment of Jenny Rodriguez as Assistant Principal at Mamaroneck High School effective July 1, 2016. Rodriguez will replace Dr. Michael Mercanti-Anthony, who, last month was named Interim Assistant Director of Special Education for the District.

“We’re thrilled to welcome Ms. Rodriguez to the Mamaroneck Schools family,” Superintendent Dr. Robert Shaps said. “Jenny comes to Mamaroneck with more than 20 years as an educator in a variety of settings. The search committee, led by Principal Elizabeth Clain and consisting of parents, faculty and students, enthusiastically supported Ms. Rodriguez’s appointment, and we are confident she will be a wonderful addition to our administrator staff.”

Rodriguez spent the last seven years as instructional leader and Assistant Principal at Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) in New York City. She provided professional development, coaching and observation for teachers and worked to ensure that 400 students were not only on track to graduate, but accepted to their colleges of choice. WHEELS opened its doors in 2006, and, since graduating its first senior class in 2012, 100% of its graduates have been accepted to two and four year colleges.

“My focus is on high standards for students, parents, and teachers,” says Rodriguez. “Most importantly, I consider myself a strategic problem solver, with the never-ending goal of strengthening school culture, student motivation and academic achievement.”

Rodriguez began her career as a Spanish teacher through Teach for America, immediately upon graduating from Syracuse University. As the founding Spanish teacher at North Star Academy Charter School in Newark, NJ, she created a rigorous high school Spanish curriculum that challenged 9th-11th grade students linguistically and pushed them to think critically about issues affecting Spanish-speaking countries.

Rodriguez also has extensive experience in college counseling. While at Bronx Preparatory Charter School, where she was a member of the School Leadership Team, Rodriguez served as a senior college counselor. Her expertise in the college placement process includes college outreach, individualized college planning, academic counseling and family awareness. To celebrate students’ completion of college applications at WHEELS, Rodriguez created a special initiative called “College Application MailOut Day,” which garnered national attention and expanded to schools throughout the country.

Rodriguez speaks fluent Spanish and resides with her family in New Rochelle, NY. She received her undergraduate degree from Syracuse in International Relations and Spanish Language Literature & Culture and Masters degrees in Comparative International Education from Teacher's College at Columbia University, as well as in School Building Leadership from Mercy College.

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