



Livingston PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Mt. Pleasant Elementary School
11 Broadlawn Drive
Livingston, New Jersey 07039
Telephone: (973) 535-8000 ext. 8140
Fax: (844) 861-3001
Website: www.livingston.org

As we approach the beginning of the 2019-2020 school year, I wanted to introduce myself. Education is my passion and as you will see I am committed to the success of your child. It is an honor and privilege to be the educational leader of this wonderful school. Since my arrival, the warm and caring nature of this community has impressed me and made me feel welcome.

For as long as I can remember I wanted to be a teacher. In high school and college, I worked as a camp counselor, cared for children in a corporate daycare center, tutored students of all ages (usually math or statistics), hosted birthday parties at McDonald's, taught as a substitute teacher and led groups at a residential facility for students who had left their homes. My first teaching job in a public school was in Sayreville. While loving every minute of teaching full-day kindergarten, I earned my Master's degree in Elementary Education from Rutgers. After my second child was born, I resigned from full-time teaching and worked as a substitute teacher in my home district and as a part-time teacher in a preschool disabled inclusion classroom. This is where I discovered my passion for helping students with special needs. I earned my special education certificate and completed a leave replacement as a mathematics special educator in Scotch Plains. From there, I began my career in Summit teaching replacement and in-class support classes in various content areas. For the last three years, I served as an assistant principal in the Summit School District. I feel thankful each day that I have chosen a profession that I love and that makes a difference each and every day. As one who loves to learn, I recently completed my Master's degree in Educational Leadership and I am currently pursuing my doctorate.

On a more personal note, I am the proud mom of three adult children. My youngest graduated high school in June so I can empathize with all of you who will have to adjust to an empty house during school hours. We will get through this together, I promise. Children are precious. Each and every one needs to be nurtured and supported as they grow and learn. One of my favorite quotes, which I am clinging to this year, is we need to give children roots and wings. Roots to feel grounded and secure; wings to fly high and achieve amazing things. I look forward to embarking on this journey with you as we work tirelessly together to ensure that every student finds success.

MPE is obviously a very special place and I am going to spend the first few months listening and learning about the traditions, culture and people that make MPE so wonderful. I have worked with Dr. Sortino over the summer to ensure a smooth transition. In the next few days, you will receive an email from me about the specifics for the first day of school and some upcoming events. Genesis will open for parents/guardians on August 22.

Please feel free to email or call if you have any questions or concerns.

Lorena Dolan
Principal of Mount Pleasant Elementary