

Marian Anderson Neighborhood Academy

2000 Catherine Street
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania 19146
Phone: 215-400-7940
Principal: Dr. Nicole Patterson
Assistant Principal: Ms. Elizabeth Walls

July 17, 2023

Marian Anderson Neighborhood Academy,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying the rejuvenating days of summer! It is my pleasure to send this letter to introduce myself as the new principal of Marian Anderson Neighborhood Academy. I am Dr. Nicole Patterson. The 2023-2024 school year will mark my 13th year in K-12 education and 16th including early childhood education. My calling in education over the years has afforded me to serve in Flourtown, Philadelphia, and Chester.

Equally important to my role as an educator is my role as a daughter, sister, friend, mentor and dog mom. I enjoy traveling the world, reading, spending time with family, exercising, and the Philadelphia Eagles! Serving as an educator has been a dream of mine since the age of seven. I do not take lightly the gift of service to scholars, educators, families, and this particular community of Marian Anderson. I am excited for the upcoming school year to engage with scholars, educators, parents, and community members. Marian Anderson is a school with resilient scholars, enthusiastic educators, passionate parents, and a caring community. I am blessed to join and serve with each of you.

I view education as a life-long process that requires a mindset of continuous improvement, consistency, and a concern connected to action for those around you. Additionally, I bring the belief that our scholars are at the center of every decision we make. The lifelong success of the scholars we serve is a testament to the commitment from the village of educators, parents, and community members. The relationships between educators, families, and the community are vital to the success of our scholars. I look forward to meeting each one of you and partnering for a successful school year full of learning, joy, events, and growth!

I am truly inspired by the advocacy connected to action from the scholars of Marian Anderson regarding igniting the process for a school name change. Scholar voice is imperative in all that we do. I am simply encouraged by the scholars, educators, and community to uplift the voices of our youth.

As we embark on this transition to Marian Anderson Neighborhood Academy, scholars will remain at the nucleus of this journey. Stay tuned for information regarding a *Principal Meet and Greet* event.

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All my best,

Dr. Nicole Patterson

Principal

npatterson@philasd.org

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Greetings! I am Liz Walls and I am ecstatic to join the Marian Anderson Neighborhood Academy school community as assistant principal. I am a graduate of Philadelphia public schools and also a proud Philadelphia public school parent to two wonderful sons, a 6th grader and a 4th grader. We have an adorable Maltipoo rescue dog, Peppy, and a tortoise named Scooter Kyle Schwaber, as my sons love the Phillies. You can find us piling in the car every summer for fun road trips and spending lots of time swimming and hiking. I have worked in the Philadelphia School District for 17 years and I also spent three years teaching at an international school in Medellin, Colombia. I am excited to bring my knowledge and experience to the Marian Anderson community.

As the assistant principal, I will work diligently with Dr. Patterson, our faculty, staff, and community to carry out the vision and mission of our school. I believe that establishing strong relationships is the foundation for a successful school year. I am eager to listen and learn from families, our scholars, and our staff and to share my areas of strength. Communication with all stakeholders is key to ensuring our scholars' success. As your assistant principal, I will bring that spirit of collaboration. It is our shared goal to provide a safe and nurturing educational environment that challenges our scholars to reach beyond their expectations and to become lifelong learners who will make our world a better place. I am excited about the possibilities that this school year will bring and proud to be part of our school community.

As assistant principal, my door is always open and I welcome your conversation and collaboration throughout this year. I look forward to celebrating our collective successes during the 2023-2024 school year and beyond.

Regards,

Ms. Liz Walls
Assistant Principal
eawalls@philasd.org