



William Wirt Middle School
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Roger Prince
Principal

Nichelle Williams
Assistant Principal

Alfreda Brooks
Assistant Principal

Dear Parents of William Wirt Students:

I trust that your children are off to a fantastic start to a well-deserved and much-needed summer vacation. My name is Roger Prince, and I am writing to introduce myself as the new principal of William Wirt Middle School effective July 1, 2014. It is an honor to return to Prince George's County, the place where I received my educational foundation, to serve our children and to work with you this upcoming school year.

Among my top priorities is parental engagement and involvement in our school community, thus my reaching out to you now, before the school year begins. I ascribe to the adage that it takes a village to raise a child, so I invite and encourage you, as a parent, to make William Wirt part of your village. We need you, our children need you, and the community needs you. As the father of two, I understand the challenges of balancing the demands of parenting with the need to work to support your family; they are complex.

When my family immigrated to the United States from Guyana, South America, I distinctly remember my parents' dual sentiments of excitement about the opportunities our new country would present and anxiety about the journey ahead. Some time later, my father went to work at a Sunoco gas station in Oxon Hill, and I embarked upon an education here. My parents stressed the importance of doing well in school, showing kindness and respect to others, and learning how to listen, traits I possess even today. With the support of my parents, teachers, and principals who refused to allow me to fail, I began to experience academic success and increased self-confidence.

After graduating high school, I continued my education at Bowie State University, where I earned undergraduate and graduate degrees in education and school administration. Upon completing college, I taught in the Prince George's County Public School system and continued my experience in Montgomery County Public Schools, most recently as assistant principal in a middle school.

For the past 16 years, I served students in two of Maryland's largest counties and have seen, first hand, how critical a parent's role is in a child's success in school. According to research, a home environment that encourages and supports learning is more important than a parent's income, educational level, or cultural background. Your participation both at home and in school sends your child the message that you are interested in their learning and that school is important.

Finally, I am committed to leading the William Wirt staff in working collaboratively with you to make your children's learning experience engaging, fun, and inspiring. Please reach out to your children's teachers, join the Parent Teacher Student Association (PTSA), and look for opportunities to be part of your children's William Wirt experience. In such an environment, students experience success in academics and extracurricular activities that prepare them to become productive members of the community and the world.

In addition, I would like to invite you to meet me on Thursday, July 17, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. in the media center at William Wirt Middle School. I look forward to seeing and working with you.

Sincerely,

Roger R. Prince
Principal