

Department of Education of the City of New York

## PORT RICHMOND HIGH SCHOOL



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**Oneatha Swinton, Principal, I.A.**

August 30, 2017

Dear Port Richmond High School Families,

I am excited to introduce myself as the new Interim Acting Principal of the very historic Port Richmond High School. As a graduating student of the class of 1996, it is truly an honor to return to the home I once resided. My time at Port Richmond provided me with lifelong friendships and allowed me the extraordinary opportunity to meet adults that would shape the course of my life. I'm still amazed that at 38 years of age, I can still reach out to them for guidance, wisdom and affirmation.

I firmly believe that one loving and caring adult has the power to greatly shape and influence the life of a child. The power of relationship and influence are two dominant forces in the life of a young adult and we must remain vigilant to ensure that those forces work for the good of our children and not to their destruction.

While, I am just beginning my time here at Port Richmond, my career within the DOE has provided me with 16 years of proven success in teaching and leading. Most recently, my 7 year tenure as principal of John Jay School for Law High School in Brooklyn. This assignment provided me the opportunity to support the growth and success of a once struggling school, which like Port Richmond, the state designated as a FOCUS/ Priority School. Through shared leadership, committed families and determined students, we increased the graduation rate from 64% to 89%, but this was not accomplished without challenge or struggle. Frederick Douglass once stated, "If there is no *struggle*, there is no *progress*. Those who profess to favor freedom, and yet depreciate agitation, are men who want crops without plowing up the ground." As a team of committed educators, we are dedicated to engaging in the hard work that will yield measurable success for your children.

I am invested in the greatness that is and will continue to be Port Richmond High School. I am invested in the greatness that rests within our children and the collective greatness we will accomplish as a community.

I look forward to meeting all of you and I know it will be an awesome new journey. Once again, welcome back to the beginning of a new school year! Along with a new year comes a fresh start and new beginnings. You will see our teachers reenergized and our community engaged and more committed than ever to excellence.

**School begins Thursday, September 7, 2017, at 7:45 am for a full day of instruction. Additionally 9<sup>th</sup> grade orientation for students and families will take place Thursday, September 14, 2017, at 6:00 pm.**

Sincerely,

Oneatha Swinton  
Principal, I.A.