



Lewis F. Cole Middle School, Fort Lee, N.J.

It is my honor and privilege to continue serving all of you as principal at Lewis F. Cole Middle School for the 2016-2017 school year. I am extremely confident that our students, teachers, parents, and community will come together to bring our middle school to new heights. This year brings a new construction project that will lead us to becoming a 5-8 middle school in September 2018. Last summer, we completed a two-year project that renovated many classrooms and brought a much needed addition with additional classroom space to address the overcrowding we experienced in the past. Needless to say, we had our best school year yet! I am excited to be part of our facility's expansion and know this will continue to bring positive outcomes to our classroom instruction and curriculum alignment. This is something that we can take pride in as a community and cherish as a place where our children will gain confidence for success in high school and beyond.

I carry two philosophies with me every day- the first is that we will enter our school each day with an attitude of growth and betterment; the second is that all children have the ability to learn and prosper. Here at Lewis F. Cole Middle School, our faculty, staff, and students must gain personal, academic, and social/emotional advancements every day. Without daily growth, we are failing our students in their preparation for high school and beyond. This responsibility falls upon all of our shoulders! As a school and community, we must share in the practice of raising our children to understand that every day presents an opportunity to learn from our mistakes and move forward. This will be vital to their confidence and work ethic as they progress and grow throughout the middle school years.

Preparing our students for 21st Century challenges is our mission. At Lewis F. Cole Middle School, we will engage our students on a daily basis with problem solving strategies and technological resources that will set them apart from the competition when they reach the next level. I am extremely proud of our faculty and the commitment they have made towards student achievement. This is the second school year where all students will be equipped with a Google Chromebook for all of their academic needs. Students can take the devices home and are expected to bring them each day to school. This is a growing part of our numerous technology initiatives and allows our students to be more collaborative in the classroom. Training workshops will also be provided to our parents and guardians so that assistance at home is not hindered by technology or the unfamiliarity with software programs.

One word comes to mind when I think about the relationships we share at Lewis F. Cole Middle School – 'TOLERANCE.' We must be tolerant of the diversity that is spread across our community. It is vital that our children grow up respecting the differences of others and realizing the benefits of bringing different perspectives to the table. Bullying and teasing in any form will not be accepted amongst our faculty and staff, and we will educate our children about society's moral obligation to help rather than to hurt. Bystanders are the most important tool against bullying and intimidation; peers hold the power to stop bullying in its tracks and to make the aggressor(s) feel isolated and powerless. This is one initiative set forth by our school district and it will stand as a primary focus of our school year. Your child's administrators, counselors, teachers and staff will work to create a positive environment and immediately address any concerns regarding your child's social interactions throughout the school day.

I thank you, our parents and guardians, for your support and dedication towards your child's success at Lewis F. Cole Middle School. At the end of the day we must be able to look ourselves in the mirror and say, "We did our best for the benefit of our kids." Together, we can create the ideal learning environment for our students to grow and prosper. I look forward to continuing our partnership with the community of Fort Lee and expect nothing less than our school to be filled with a passion for the process of learning and the joys of discovery. Have a great 2016-2017 school year!

Yours Truly,

Robert Daniello
Principal
Lewis F. Cole Middle School