

# The Middle School Team

## 2021-2022

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## Math Team

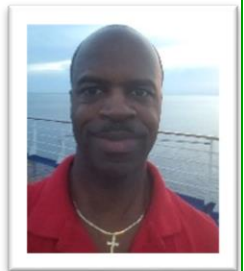


Welcome Back! I hope you have enjoyed a restful and relaxing summer and are ready to kick off the school year with positivity and pursuit. My name is Christina Napolitano and I am the Mathematics teacher for sixth grade.

Riverton has been my home for the past 6 years. I have a very strong work ethic and believe that it takes a strong family to overcome any obstacle. Mathematics has always been a subject that many people try to stay away from. As an educator and a family member of Riverton, my philosophy is that mathematics is not something to fear, but something to overcome. I believe that EVERYONE can learn, we just all learn differently. I believe that if we all work together, we can do great things and overcome anything.

I do believe that it takes a family to make each other stronger. I believe while working together, we can learn from each other and make this year one that we will never forget. In my classroom, I meet the learning styles and needs of all my scholars. I use interactive notebooks, videos, hands on activities, gallery walks, group work, modeling, and many more techniques to meet the needs of every scholar. We may have different strengths, but when we work together we become stronger. I believe in order to get better at something you need to practice. I love challenging my scholars to become the best they can be. I believe that everyone can grow. We might all start from different places and levels, but with hard work, dedication, passion, drive, teamwork, and trust, we can all grow as individuals in and out of the classroom. I want my scholars to feel the passion and drive that I have for education and be able to motivate and help others with the same passion and drive. I want my scholars to leave my classroom fulfilled and understand how mathematics is connected to our everyday lives. I have an open communication policy and regardless of what the issue is, please feel free to email at [89.cnapolitano@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.cnapolitano@nhaschools.com).

Welcome back! My name is Mr. Williams and I am the seventh grade Math teacher. This is my seventh year teaching Mathematics and sixth year teaching seventh grade. I am looking forward to reconnecting with so many familiar faces as well as new faces and being able to help scholars academically.



I am very excited to be working with your child during this school year. We will look at Math from two points of view, the general application to create thinking outside of the box and the use of it in the real-world. The scholars will be challenged, not only by state assessment exams, but by the day to day class work, midterm and interim exams, as well as projects. They will learn and develop the Math language required to be able to think deeper about problems they may face in real life. Scholars will be regularly assessed using various data reports to determine their understanding of the content being taught. This rigorous work will prepare them to be successful in their academic future. The goal is for every scholar to be successful. Working together and keeping an open line of communication will ensure the success of each scholar. I believe this will be an exciting year for all scholars as well as myself. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [89.awilliams@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.awilliams@nhaschools.com).



I am very excited to begin a new school year at Riverton Street Charter School and to welcome all new scholars into my classroom, and to meet each of their parents. I hope that this year we will together create a knowledgeable and encouraging learning environment for all the Riverton Street scholars. My name is Ms. Streffacio and I am the eighth-grade math teacher. I believe that given the right tools, environment, and motivation every scholar can successfully learn math. This year I intend to foster a mathematical mindset and grow math skills by offering all my scholars a supportive positive math environment. To the parents of scholars, you have a very important role in creating this environment as well, as it is through your eyes and voice that your scholars have first explored this world, and all of its challenges and rewards; including math, and I want to ensure that you always remember that every scholar can do math and to remind your scholars of this often.

As students in my class enter the 8th grade, high school is not far away in their minds. With a rigorous common core oriented mathematical background, they will be prepared for the high school math classroom. However, it will take a lot of practice and studying daily both in the classroom and at home to ensure student success. Math is a skill; like learning to play an instrument or sport, it requires practice and dedication.

If you have any questions for me, you can reach me by calling the school at 718-481-8200 or email me at [89.mstreffacio@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.mstreffacio@nhaschools.com). I look forward to hearing from you and a successful school year!

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## Social Studies Team

To formally introduce myself, my name is Mr. Frieson and I am teaching sixth grade Social Studies for the 2021-2022 school year. My educational background and professional experiences involve the study of Social Studies. I am truly passionate about this field of study because it is critical that all scholars are geared with the necessary tools as they relate to social issues in their communities, country, and globally.

During our classes, scholars will be engaged in discussions, Socratic seminars, and class presentations to demonstrate a deep understanding of the concepts presented. With every unit, scholars will delve deeper and apply geographic, economic, civic, and historical elements to better understand the area of study.

I am proud to be given the opportunity to help your scholar to achieve success. I have an open line of communication regardless of what the issue is, please feel free to contact me by simply calling the school 718-481-8200 or by email [89.dfrieson2@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.dfrieson2@nhaschools.com). Once again, thank you and I look forward to an exciting and successful school year.



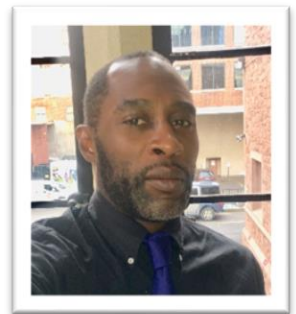
Greetings! My name is Mr. Bruning and I will be your child's 7<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher. I began my career as a Teaching Fellow within the New York City D.O.E. and taught Middle School Social Studies for 15 years. I am eager to meet my new students and get started.

In 7<sup>th</sup> grade social studies we will cover a vibrant period in U.S. history – from the migrations of native cultures to the Americas through the start of the Civil War. We will discuss contemporary issues, too, because history is most useful when it helps us gain perspective on our own time.

To assure your child's success, I will be in frequent contact through e-mails, phone calls, and parent-teacher conferences. It is extremely important that the e-mail you have on file is accurate and up to date. I will be happy to answer any questions. You can reach me by [e-mail at 89.cbruning@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.cbruning@nhaschools.com)

Blessings and Greetings to my family here at Riverton Street Charter School. My name is Herb Antoine, and I am the 8<sup>th</sup> grade Social Studies teacher, born and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Although I have previous experience teaching ELA and providing test preparation for the NY State Exam, this will be my fifth year teaching at Riverton.

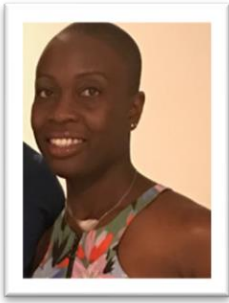
Being able to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade scholars is bittersweet, since at the conclusion of the school year they will be venturing off to high school. Thus, we at Riverton are to assist the scholars in reaching all of their academic goals. It is amazing to be working in collaboration with other passionate and dedicated instructors. We sincerely value our educational practices, therefore we invest the time to analyze data, create lessons that are standards based and provide rigorous tasks, to ensure that our scholars will excel inside and outside the classroom. Email me at [89.hantoine@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.hantoine@nhaschools.com)



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# ELA Team



Welcome back to school! My name is Ms. Jackson and I am the 6<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for English Language Arts for the 2021-2022 school year. Sixth grade is an exciting time as children transition into middle school scholars with unique social, emotional and academic characteristics. I look forward to working with your child to prepare them for the transition to middle school both academically and socially.

In English Language Arts, we prepare our scholars to be more effective readers and writers, as they'll be exposed to multiple genres using the workshop model. In addition, scholars will have multiple opportunities to read and discuss novels as well as nonfictional texts tied to the curriculum. Trips will be incorporated to reinforce academic standards and unit thematic studies.

Lastly, scholars will be assessed in the standards using a variety of data driven tools to gain insight into their comprehension of the content and skills. Parent support will be greatly appreciated throughout the entire school year. I believe that a consistent line of communication between school and home is the best way to ensure that scholars are constantly striving to achieve their best. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [89.Ojackson@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.Ojackson@nhaschools.com).

I am overly elated to welcome everyone to the 2021-2022 school year here at Riverton Street Charter School. Hopefully you've all had a restful and enjoyable summer and are ready to return to another exciting school year. I look forward to both the challenges and success of another year and the opportunity to work together with each scholar and their families.

To formally introduce myself, my name is Ms. Giordano and this is my fifth year teaching at Riverton! I will be teaching seventh grade English Language Arts. Both my educational background and professional experiences encompass the study of English Language Arts. I am truly passionate about this field of study because it is critical that all scholars are equipped with the necessary tools in reading and writing, in order to navigate through our revolutionized society. In order to fully understand the impact of Language Arts, simply take a look into everyday life, from reading a newspaper, following directions, writing a research paper or even a resume.



As your scholar's teacher, I will ensure that by collaborating with families each scholar will reach to their academic potential. I truly believe that all students can learn regardless of their background. It begins with setting that goal, believing in that goal and as your child's teacher I will assure you my uttermost focus will be on ensuring that each scholar reaches his or her goal. Together all scholars and myself will create a social contract that I will continually reference to throughout the year in order to build the core values of our learning community.

I have an open line of communication regardless of what the issue is, please feel free to contact me by simply calling the school 718-481-8200 or by email [89.jgiordano@nha.schools.com](mailto:89.jgiordano@nha.schools.com). Once again, thank you and I look forward to a successful school year.



Howdy! My name is Mr. Calderón and I am excited to start the 2021-2022 school year. I will be the 7th Co-ELA teacher. This is my 5<sup>th</sup> year at Riverton Street Charter School. I obtained my Bachelor's in English and Adolescent Education at SUNY Geneseo. I am currently obtaining my MEd degree at CUNY Queens College. I am also obtaining my Bilingual Certification. I am bilingual in Spanish if you need translation services. I am looking forward to working with 7th grade students and the 7th grade team this year!

My name is Ms. Edouard and I am the 8<sup>th</sup> grade teacher for English Language Arts at Riverton. Eighth grade is an exciting time for our scholars as they continue to expand their wealth of knowledge in preparation for high school and beyond.

In English Language Arts class, scholars will be learning reading strategies, which will help them become better all-around learners. Some examples include: reading short stories, articles, essays, poems, and novels. We will also be studying and practicing the writing process. Analyzing and evaluating texts through response and discussion will set the standard for higher level learning. I hope to engage, challenge, and develop a culture of "thinkers" here at Riverton. I hope that each scholar has an exciting educational experience this year. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at [89.redouard@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.redouard@nhaschools.com)



# Science Team



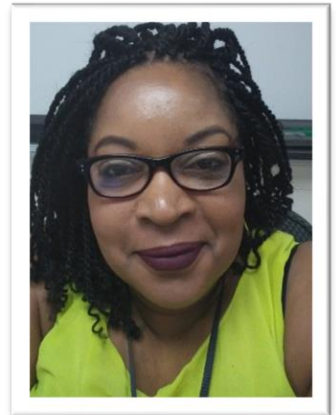
My name is Faith Grant and I am very excited to be your child's sixth grade Science teacher. I am committed to doing everything possible to make this year successful for all of us. This is my fifth year at this noble institution, and I look forward to a year filled with unlimited learning experiences and fun times.

As an educator and a mature classroom teacher with expertise and resourceful instructional insight in Science, I foster an exciting and enjoyable learning environment by utilizing hands on activities, fun experiments and real-life connections. I also integrate various forms of technology, class discussions and projects consolidating important concepts that will showcase Science in the local environment and the real world, thus encouraging participation.

A good learning experience is built on collaborative effort between parent, teacher and child. My expectations for conduct and academic growth are high but with your participation, we can look forward to a productive year. I eagerly anticipate meeting your child and working with him/her to facilitate exploration, discovering and learning science. I am confident that this is going to be a good year! Any questions feel free to contact me at [89.fgrant@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.fgrant@nhaschools.com)

Parents and Scholars, Welcome back for the 2021-2022 school year here at Riverton Street Charter School. Everyone should be restful after a great summer and ready to return to another exciting school year. To formally introduce myself, my name is Ms. Shakes and I am teaching seventh grade science. My educational background includes the study of science and technology. My professional experience is several years of teaching science in an inner-city school setting. I specialize in science and include technology in student's education. Students are exposed to 21st century learning through critical thinking in science and necessary technology applications.

As your scholar's teacher, I will ensure that by collaborating with families each scholar will reach their academic potential. I truly believe that all students can learn regardless of their background. Together all scholars and myself will create moral focus character building contracts that I will continually reference throughout the day in order to build the core values of our learning community. I look forward to a wonderful school year! I have an open line of communication regardless of what the issue is, please feel free to contact me by simply calling the school 718-481-8200 or by email [89.jshakes@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.jshakes@nhaschools.com). Once again, thank you and I look forward to a successful school year.



It is my pleasure to introduce myself to a passionate, appreciative and supportive parent community. My name is Melissa Scott and I will be instructing the 8<sup>th</sup> grade in the content area of Science.

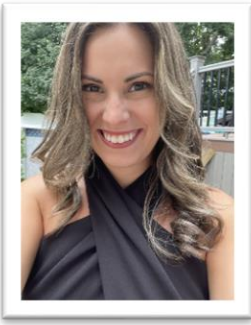
I do embrace the mission statement of our Founding Fathers of Education: "Education is the vehicle to success". You will find my classrooms culture to be defined as the theme: "Everyone can learn". Therefore, I will challenge every student to use the classroom as well as their environment as a learning tool with hopes of them wanting to become life-long learners. One of my jobs as a teacher is to help your child discover his or her individuality and work alongside them to maximize it. I believe in hands-on experiences, learning creatively, and learning through discovery. I want students to leave my classroom feeling confident that they can apply what they've learned in school to real-life situations.

As William Butler Yeats states, "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire". My goal is to provide the tools necessary for each student to spark that fire within them. I look forward to meeting you and I am confident that my expectations will find the perfect fit with yours. If you have any concerns, please e-mail me at [89.mscott@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.mscott@nhaschools.com).

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## Special Education Team

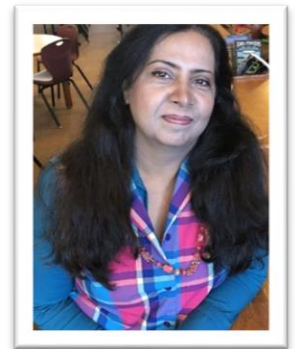


Hello everyone! My name is Mrs. Giles and this is my second year in a lead teaching position. This is also my second-year teaching at Riverton Street Charter School and I am very excited! In December of 2019, I graduated from Adelphi University with my masters in special education in inclusive settings for grades one-six. My inspiration to become a Special Education Teacher stems from my brother and watching him during his special education experience.

Some of my goals for this year include: to meet the individual needs of all the students on my caseload, to differentiate and collaborate with the general education teachers to make learning successful for the scholars. To form relationships with the scholars and the parents to help motivate and build trust with scholars so they can do their very best! Also, to track progress, as the special education teacher it is imperative to track growth. And last but not least, to provide opportunities for all scholars to learn the content in a learning style that works best for them. Please do not hesitate to reach out to me by emailing me at [89.agiles@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.agiles@nhaschools.com) , I cannot wait to meet the incoming 6<sup>th</sup> grade scholars, this will be a great year!

My name is Rahila Rashid and I have been teaching for over 9 years. I am the 7<sup>th</sup> grade ICT teacher for the 2021-2022 school year. I believe that some of the most important skills to have when working with children are patience, flexibility, and love. This will be my sixth year at Riverton and I believe it is a wonderful setting for your scholar to secure quality education.

We are a great team with incredible spirit and high expectations for each and every student. Our goal is to focus on giving the best education and creating a lifelong desire for learning among scholars. To get in contact with me please email at [89.rrashid@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.rrashid@nhaschools.com).



Allow me to introduce myself first. I am Mr. Cristiano the special education teacher for 8<sup>th</sup> grade. I will be in ICT classes co-teaching with the subject teachers, as well as teaching SETSS classes. I look forward to working with all the scholars in order for them to achieve their IEP goals and to help them reach their highest potential in all their classes. I will be working with the scholars' teachers in order to differentiate instruction so as to make the material individualized for each scholar. I will be in classes as well as having my own SETSS class. We will be working in smaller groups in SETSS utilizing a wide variety of activities, from reinforcing what was taught in class to introducing topics early so that scholars get a head start on learning and approaching what was taught in class from other angles better suited to each scholars' individual needs; just to name a few.



8<sup>th</sup> grade is very important as it is the last year before scholars go to high school. The scholars may have the opportunity to visit different high schools and complete their high school applications. I would advise all parents and scholars to keep an eye out for what schools seem like a good fit based off IEP needs as well as in terms of classes and supports.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to me by calling the school at 718-481-8200, or e-mailing me at [89.vcristiano@nhaschools.com](mailto:89.vcristiano@nhaschools.com).

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## Dean Nadene Watson-Parchment, Grades 6-8

*It is beyond a privilege to be in partnership with educators and other stakeholders (here at Riverton), whose function is primarily birthed from a place of innate purpose. Interestingly, my love, passion and labor in the Field of Education, are fueled from a source beyond my human control. Consequently, it is my daily mission as an educator to: Encourage the drive or spirit of children to be in pursuit of aspiring above marginal academic benchmarks. For this to be possible, educators must promote a pedagogy of learning with purposeful engagement within an authentic learning community. Furthermore a community of heartfelt practitioners is required to act instead of merely talking and as an educator; this is where my job becomes a ministry. Children must be socialized and taught to be confident, ambitious, self-aware, and not be satisfied with mediocrity. Thus as an educator, my interest is not restricted to the educational achievements of children but also their holistic development. As the Dean of this cohort, it is imperative for Riverton's Middle School to aspire, achieve and apply on a global competitive platform and as we grow, we are committed to making this a consistent reality.*

*I am commissioned to serve and if my role does not seek to fulfill the aforementioned, then I would have failed to serve our nation's children.*

