



Fort Lee Public Schools

Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School

“Daily Growth Is Our Mission”

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Dear LFCIS Families,

It is with great pride that I write to you, welcoming you to a new school year at Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School! Just one year ago, my colleagues, staff, and I were preparing for the grand opening of our brand new school building, a building that would, for the very first time, combine all of our 5th and 6th-grade students in one location. After several years of preparing for the opening, I was filled with excitement, as well as anxiety and nervousness. As many of you will remember, the building finally received its Certificate of Occupancy on Friday, September 6th, and school began only three days later! I thought to myself, “If I can get through this, I can get through anything!” Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined a more stressful time, and yet here we are. The 2020-2021 school year will be a first for all of us, but once again, if we can get through this, we can get through anything...and we will!

The community has rallied together to prepare the best possible opening for our students. The phrase “it takes a village” comes to mind, and the preparation for this year is no exception. Administrators, teachers, support staff, custodians, board members, and parents alike took part in one way or another to ensure that our students would be prepared for another round of remote learning. I can assure you, we all learned a great deal from last spring, and we are coming back better than ever!

Our fantastic Intermediate School teachers and counselors will amaze you with how much they have learned and are more prepared to engage, support, challenge, and enrich their students’ academic lives. They will be delving deeper into the world of Google Sites, Bitmoji Classrooms, Google Classrooms, Brainpop, Screencastify, IXL, NewsELA, Nearpod, and Flipgrid, just to name a few. And please don’t let those names scare you; your 10-12-year-old children will help you!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of you for your support in my new role as Interim Principal. Your thoughtful words and well wishes make all of the hard work worth it. I will continue to do my very best for our Intermediate School and look forward to leading the staff in this capacity. I am also very fortunate to have Mrs. Solanny Ortega as our Interim Assistant Principal. Like myself, Mrs. Ortega has a long history as a Lewis F. Cole Middle School teacher since 2010.

She and I have worked closely in the past and will continue to work together along with our staff to ensure that our students are academically, socially, and emotionally successful.

On behalf of all of us at Lewis F. Cole Intermediate School, we look forward to the day we can all be together again in our beautiful building with ALL of our students filling the hallways, and classrooms.

Here is to the 2020-2021 school year! One for the record books, and one we will never forget!

Kind regards,

Gina Ruesga

Gina Ruesga

Lewis F. Cole Schools Interim Principal