

August 6, 2021

Dear Brooklyn Ascend Lower School Families,

We hope this letter finds you all well and you have been enjoying the summer months with your scholar(s).

At the end of May, Ms. Elena Strauss, former principal of BACS, wrote to you, to share news of her transition from the Ascend community. Today, we are writing to share news of our new BACS principal, who will start with us on Monday, 8/9/2021.

Over the past month, a team of Ascend leaders, which included staff members, family members, network leaders, and school leaders, engaged in the interview process with several principal candidates. We are excited to share with you all, that Ms. Chenell Sheppard, will be starting in the principal role on August 9, 2021. Ms. Sheppard is joining us with 13 years of experience in the field of education, most recently serving as assistant principal with PAVE schools in Brooklyn. Ms. Sheppard earned her master of arts degree in teaching, elementary education, from Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland, while she served as a Teach for America corps member, teaching second grade scholars. Thank you for joining us in welcoming Ms. Sheppard! We look forward to you having the opportunity to meet her in the upcoming weeks.



Please feel free to reach out directly to Anastasia Michals, managing director of lower schools, anastasia.michals@ascendlearning.org, if you have any questions or would like to discuss our principal transition.

Thank you for your support, your partnership and your trust as we continue to navigate through these unprecedented times together. We look forward to launching a new school year, stronger than ever together, with all of our students back with us for in-person learning!

With much love and appreciation for you all!

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