

Dear Arlington High School Community,

I am thrilled to be a new member of Team Arlington!

My journey to becoming your new South House Principal has been 23 years in the making. I started teaching 6th grade Humanities in 1999 in a small school in Gramercy Park, Manhattan. My students swirled with energy and passion, inquiry and insight. I am sure they taught me more than I taught them that year: the greatest lesson being that there is a great deal of joy in teaching and learning. Classrooms are places for practicing and doing the authentic work of each discipline. We are reading, writing, thinking, experimenting, and problem solving like mathematicians, engineers, scientists, historians, artists and writers do in the professional world.

I went to Midwood High School. Like Arlington students, I also had over 2,000 classmates. Despite its size, like Arlington, it was an amazing place to grow. I had incredible teachers who saw me for who I was, treated me with respect, encouraged and pushed me academically. High school, in particular, is a time for self discovery and impassioned inquiry. A time for making mistakes, reflecting, and rebounding to a higher level always feeling safe and included. It was my AP English teacher, Mr. Milkman (yes, that's his real name!) whose humor and realness allowed us to feel seen as humans, not just students. His choice of soul-stirring novels kept me riveted -- I never wanted to leave the discussion, so I decided to become an English teacher.

I attended New York University's School of Education and received my Masters in Curriculum and Teaching from Teachers College Columbia University. Studying the art, craft and science of teaching and learning is now a lifelong endeavor for me, as well as convincing my colleagues to join in the fun!

In every role I've had as an educator, I keep a learner's stance and students at the center. Whether teaching 6th graders or 12th graders, I love the energy and passion students bring to the classroom. My hope for this year is to pave a smooth, post COVID, safe transition back to the school community. I promise to listen, learn, collaborate and provide for you responsive leadership.

I feel honored and blessed to be a part of your journey now.

Always,

Deborah S. Bryant  
South House Principal  
Class of 2024