

Sixth-Grade Campus 4360 Powers Ferry Road | Atlanta, GA 30327 | (404) 802-5650 Seventh- & Eighth- Grade Campus 2875 Northside Drive | Atlanta, GA 30305 | (404) 802-5600

## Greetings, Sutton Community!

With great enthusiasm and pride, I write this letter to you as the new principal of Willis A. Sutton Middle School. With this excitement, I am honored to lead a community focused on keeping its legacy of student achievement, emphasizing the importance of personal and civic responsibility, and delivering a rigorous, engaging academic program. In my new role, I realize the responsibility to empower, inspire, and influence students, families, and staff members. It is my personal belief that all students deserve a challenging, world-class education that will prepare them for success in college and beyond.

As I embark on my new role with Sutton Middle School, I bring a plethora of experience with me, both educationally and professionally. My educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science with a concentration in Political Theory from Morehouse College, a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Columbus State University, an Educational Specialist degree in Educational Leadership from Valdosta State University, and a Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Liberty University. Throughout my educational career, I have had the pleasure of serving in various instructional leadership roles where I have had the opportunity to impact student achievement at high levels. My career started in education as an English Language Arts Special Education teacher in Fulton County Schools. After serving in this role, I became an English Language Arts General Education teacher and an AVID model teacher while also serving as Department Chair of the English Language Arts Department. Following this, I had the pleasure of serving as an Instructional Coach with a direct focus on literacy for all content areas. In this role, I was able to restructure PLCs, deliver model lessons for teachers, and bring personalized learning practices into classrooms to support students' individual learning differences. Most recently, I have had the pleasure of serving as an Assistant Principal at Willis A. Sutton Middle School in Atlanta Public Schools.

With these experiences and accomplishments, I transition from assistant principal to principal eager to serve this distinguished community. Renowned Civil Rights Activist Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., shared with the world that "the function of education is to teach one to think intensively and to think critically. Intelligence plus character... that is the goal of true education." With education serving as an instrument to change the world, it is my goal to deliver the promise of that change directly into the hands and minds of the Willis A. Sutton Middle School student body.

I am excited to work alongside faculty, students, and families as we prepare our students to make a positive and lasting impact in our world. I am looking forward to an incredible school year.

Go Cougars!

Regards,

Dr. Dominique R. Merriweather

Principal