



# **October 14, 2024**

# Dear Ram Families,

# I am excited and honored to introduce myself as the new principal of M. Agnes Jones, officially starting Wednesday, October 16, 2024. It is truly a privilege to join this vibrant school community, where together, we will nurture our students to think critically, solve problems, and embrace creativity as they grow into change-makers within our school and the world beyond.

# I want to take a moment to share a little about myself so you can feel confident about the person entrusted with your children's education. My name is Dr. Teruko Dobashi, and I bring over a decade of experience in education, driven by a deep passion for academic excellence, social justice, and student well-being. Inspired by the words of Tupac Shakur, “I’m not saying I’m gonna change the world, but I guarantee that I will spark the brain that will,” I am dedicated to creating an environment where every child can thrive and feel valued.

# As a former foster youth from San Francisco, California, my journey in education began with a commitment to social justice and community engagement. After earning my degrees in Social Work, Creative Writing, and Education from UC Berkeley, I joined Teach for America in the Mississippi Delta. My academic journey continued with Master's degrees in Social Work from Jackson State University, Educational Leadership from Columbia University, and a Doctorate in Education from Georgia State University. Each step of the way, I have had the privilege of learning from incredible students, parents, and educators, and I carry those lessons with me into this new role.

# At M. Agnes Jones, I am committed to working alongside you to build upon the school’s culture of excellence and achievement. I truly believe that a strong partnership between school and home is key to student success. Together, we will create a positive and supportive environment where every child’s strengths are celebrated, and where authenticity, critical thinking, and student voice are nurtured.

# I encourage open communication and I welcome your ideas, questions, or concerns. Please feel free to reach out to me at any time—whether it’s to discuss your child’s needs or simply to introduce yourself. I look forward to meeting each of you and working together to make M. Agnes Jones a place where your child feels empowered to succeed. You can contact me at 404-802-3911 or Teruko.DobashiTay@apsk12.org

# I am truly excited to embark on this journey with your family and can’t wait to meet you all.

# Love, Light, Liberation, Dr. Teruko DobashiPrincipal, M. Agnes Jones