



## Robert H. Goddard Middle School 202

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William M. Fitzgerald, Principal

Assistant Principals: Stacy Mizrahi Kelly Barton Jason Lloyd Kye Weaver (IA)

October 14, 2021

Dear Families,

As we move forward with our school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you our school's 2021- 2022 Instructional and Priority/Focus Statements. For context, every Principal across New York State is asked to develop this focus with stakeholders from their respective school community.

### **INSTRUCTIONAL STATEMENT**

**IF**...we continue to support Professional Development (PD) utilizing Culturally Sustaining Education (CR-SE) and Social and Emotional Learning – Academic Learning (SEAL) and apply it to the design of inclusive culturally relevant and “real world” application of learning experiences for all students....

**THEN**...all students will make connections to a culturally relevant and diverse curriculum to then take risks to grow in their learning experiences through rigor and inclusivity.

### **PRIORITY/FOCUS STATEMENT**

Principal will build capacity through the Instructional Leadership Team, Equity Team and teacher/leader common planning teams for teachers to engage in learning experiences through PD, study groups and intervisitations to design instruction rooted in inclusivity and real world experiences as outlined in CR-SE and SEAL framework.

Additionally, this year we are committed to plan lessons, which encourage students to share ideas with peers, debate, ask questions, and demonstrate an understanding of a concept through discussion and questioning practices. Research shows students will have a greater understanding of material if learned through rich classroom discussion. It deepens the learning and understanding of any concept when students are actively engaging, discussing and participating in the learning process. Students want to be heard. They want their voice to be recognized, and here at JHS 202 we provide a space to do so.

Our school's programming is also reflective of the challenges students have faced over the last two years. As a result, we have programmed one SEAL (Social and Emotional Learning -

Academic Learning) period, per week for every student. The curricula and teacher training are focused on fostering the whole student with vertically-aligned lessons that teach SEAL and character, side-by-side. Highlights of the program are outlined below:

- SEL Competencies: Self-Awareness, Self-Management, Social Awareness, Relationship Skills, Responsible Decision-Making
- Character Development: Patience, Kindness, Honesty, Respect, Selflessness, Forgiveness, Commitment, Humility

Finally, we will continue to emphasize the importance of CR-SE (Culturally Sustaining Education) across all classrooms. Our staff has a responsibility to make sure all students feel welcomed by establishing high expectations, a welcoming environment and enforcing rigorous work habits.

I look forward to our continued success this year and hope to see you at our monthly PTA meetings.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William Fitzgerald". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "W" and "F".

William Fitzgerald  
Principal JHS 202