Dear STEM Academy Families:

Welcome to the 2017-18 school year! It is with pride, and excitement that I introduce myself as the newly-appointed Principal of the River Rouge STEM Academy. During the past 17 years, I have served as a Teacher, Director of Curriculum and Instruction, and Principal. My most recent administrative experience has been shaped by seven successful years of leadership as a principal in New York City.

River Rouge enjoys a rich history of academic and cultural excellence, a direct result of the partnership between the school staff and parents, which provides a wide range of experiences for the scholars. I am elated to bring my knowledge, and skills as an educational leader to help enhance our young scholars’ learning experiences. The staff and I will work diligently to continue the legacy of educational success, and accomplishment established by the River Rouge School District.

As members of the STEM family, we all play an important role in encouraging our scholars to thrive, and to become lifelong learners. It is my sincere desire to work together with you, and the staff to provide our scholars with opportunities to become world-class citizens who can master the challenges of the 21st Century. As Principal of the River Rouge STEM Academy, I will ensure that each child’s educational experience:

* Involves all four disciplines: Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math;
* Is not only inclusive, but integrated;
* Uses projects and problems as learning vehicles, not just means of assessment at the end of a unit;
* Solves real-world problems of ~~a~~ local and/or global importance;
* Involves student-to-student collaboration;
* Challenges the students with “impossible” expectations, while ensuring them that it is alright to fall short when you are reaching high;
* Is authentic—includes real practices and realistic careers;
* Includes criteria-based assessments from the students, peers, and teacher; and
* Includes effective communication of students’ findings, ideas and recommendations.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly Coffee & Conversation meetings. My door is always open, and I welcome your input. Please feel free to stop in and say hello.

Educationally Yours,

LaToiya Tolliver-Revell