

**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS**

*Press Release*

~~~~~**IMPORTANT**~~~~~

Released by: Kathleen Greider, Superintendent Farmington Schools  
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**FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS ANNOUNCES THE APPOINTMENT OF  
ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL OF IRVING A ROBBINS MIDDLE SCHOOL EFFECTIVE  
NOVEMBER 13, 2017**

(For immediate release: Farmington Public Schools October 17, 2017)

Superintendent Kathleen C. Greider and the Farmington Board of Education are proud to announce the appointment of Ms. Nilda Irizarry to the position of Assistant Principal of Irving A. Robbins Middle School effective November 13, 2017.

After a comprehensive search, Ms. Irizarry was selected from a large and strong pool of candidates. In her current role as English Department Chair at Simsbury High School, Ms. Irizarry created a collaborative department vision and mission that embraced inquiry-based and student-centered learning. She led instructional initiatives to develop and communicate clear learning targets and shifted practice to foster personalized instruction. Ms. Irizarry collaboratively revised curriculum to encourage reflection and revision and implemented a 9-12 student e-portfolio to provide evidence of the mastery of 21<sup>st</sup> century skills. She also developed consistent protocols for the examination of student work in collaboration with her colleagues. Prior to her current position, Ms. Irizarry served as an English teacher at Fairfield Warde High School.

Superintendent Greider states, "Ms. Irizarry is a strong instructional leader with a deep commitment to the success of all students. Throughout the interview process, she exhibited a love of learning and a strong commitment to continuous improvement in all aspects of her work with students and colleagues. Ms. Irizarry is an innovative leader with a strong knowledge base in a student-centered approach to teaching and learning. We are fortunate to welcome such a stellar educator and leader to the Farmington Public Schools."

Board of Education Chair Christopher Fagan commented, "Ms. Irizarry is an exceptional leader with a deep belief in students as leaders of their own learning. Her leadership expertise and caring approach will support and enhance the strong improvement efforts already occurring at Irving A. Robbins Middle School."

Principal Ted Donahue states, “As principal of Irving A. Robbins Middle School, I am very excited to welcome Nilda Irizarry to our school community and our leadership team. Her knowledge, energy, and passion will be invaluable as we continue our ongoing collective work to support the academic achievement, and the social and emotional development, of every IAR student so they are well prepared to meet the demands of high school and beyond.”

Upon her appointment, Ms. Irizarry commented, “I am excited and honored to join Irving A. Robbins Middle School's outstanding school community. As the new Assistant Principal of Irving a Robbins Middle School, forming positive and meaningful relationships will be my main priority. I will work collaboratively with all students, parents, faculty, staff and the leadership team to encourage and support all learners. Together, we will continue to promote a respectful, responsible, resilient and safe learning environment.”

**Brief Bio:**

Ms. Irizarry received her Bachelor of Science in English Education from Springfield College, her Master’s Degree in the Teaching of English at Columbia University and her Sixth Year in Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport.

Ms. Irizarry was the recipient of the Brian Fagan Award in 2015, a Fairfield Public School PTA grant awarded to a teacher leader. She was featured in a 2015 NEASC newsletter which honored her as a committee member who applied new learning from the accreditation process to her position. Fairfield Living Magazine featured Ms. Irizarry as “Top Teacher” in Fairfield County in 2012 and 2014; nominated by students as their most influential teacher.

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