

Whittier Elementary School
71 East 152nd Street
Harvey, IL 60426
708.331.1130

The Roar

Mrs. Felicia Solomon, Secretary



Principally Speaking

Greeting Whittier Wildcat Families!

Welcome to the 2020-2021 School year! It is with great enthusiasm that I introduce myself to you as the new Principal of Whittier Elementary School. I am honored to have been selected to lead a school with such brilliant students, dedicated staff members and supportive families. I am committed to continuing the tradition of EXCELLENCE that you have grown accustomed to!

I have been an educator for more than 16 years. My experience includes working with students ranging in age from Kindergarten through 8th grade in a variety of roles. Also, I have been a special education, regular education and gifted education teacher. Additionally, I have also been a Math Instructional Lead, a Middle School Department Chair, a Gifted Education Coordinator, and an Assistant Principal. Most recently, I was the Assistant Principal at both Whittier Elementary School and Angelou Elementary School right here in School District #152. I am thrilled to use my knowledge, skills, and experience to partner with you to ensure your student's academic success.

I am a life-long learner. I hold a Doctorate in Educational Administration from Chicago State University (CSU); a Master's in Curriculum and Instruction from CSU; a Master's degree in Elementary Education from CSU; and a Bachelor's Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics from Langston University in Langston, OK. I will continue to learn and use this knowledge to propel the students at Whittier towards their goals.

I encourage you to get involved in every way possible. When we work together, success is the outcome! My door is always open, however, to make sure that your concerns are addressed adequately I encourage you to make an appointment. I look forward to meeting you at one of the upcoming parent orientation sessions. Please feel free to contact me by phone or via email at deffs@harvey152.org if you have any questions or concerns!

Educationally yours,

Principal Effs



UPCOMING DATES

September

- 2nd Parent Orientation (In-person)
- 3rd Parent Orientation (In-person)
- 4th Parent Orientation (In-person)
- 7th Holiday - Labor Day - No School
- 8th First Day of Student Attendance (Virtual)



Register online any day of the week or in-person from 9am-12pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays!



Hello Whittier Family! I am Darnell Garner the new Assistant Principal of Whittier Elementary School. I am a proud graduate of Chicago Public Schools for both elementary school and high school. I received my undergraduate degree from WIU and my graduate and teaching certifications from Northwestern University Trinity College and the American College of Education. I am a certified Diverse Learner Educator with multiple endorsements including MS Education Leadership and Administration.

I have taught both general education and special education; I also have 6 years as an administrator for a combined 25 years of service. While in school, I played both basketball and football, and now I enjoy coaching students after school and on weekends I'm a passionate advocate and supporter of young people. On a personal note, I'm a fervent Chicago sports fan and attend all the games I can. Additionally, I enjoy reading and working out. The most important life lesson I have learned as an educator and school leader has always been placing students and their families first.

I am excited about the awesome opportunity to lead and work along-side the Whittier team. In the words of Thurgood Marshall, *"None of us got where we are solely by pulling ourselves up by our bootstraps. We got here because somebody **a parent, a teacher, an Ivy League Crony or a few nuns** bent down and helped us pick up our boots."* I look forward to meeting you in the upcoming school year!



Ms. T. Jones
1st Grade



Ms. T. Karanikolas
1st Grade



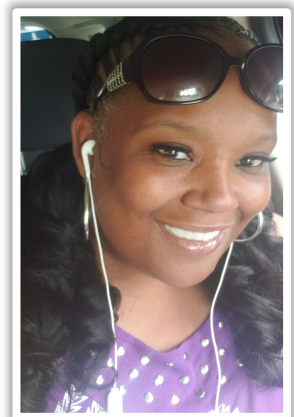
Ms. M. Marsalis
2nd Grade



Ms. S. Martinus
3rd Grade



Ms. M. Marron
ESL



Ms. K. Henderson
STEM

Parent Orientation

Parent orientation will be held on Wednesday, September 2nd; Thursday, September 3rd; and Friday September 4th. Instructional materials and Chromebooks will be distributed at parent orientation. It is **VERY IMPROTANT** that you attend a parent orientation session. Click here to sign up for [Parent Orientation](#) in advance.

Instruction

From September 8, 2020 - January 29, 2021 students will be engaging in remote learning. Teachers will provide students with a minimum of 5 hours of daily online instruction and/or coursework for five days a week. Students are expected to participate in ALL of their instructional activities daily. Please be sure to attend a Parent Orientation Session to pick up your student's daily schedule.

Food Service

Grab-and-go breakfast and lunch options will be available for pick-up daily at each district school from 9:00am -12:00 pm. One bus will be stationed at each school building to distribute food. Please make every effort to pick up meals for your child prior to the start of class.



Principal - Parent Chat

Parents are encouraged to participate in the Principal-Parent chat via Google Meet. The first chat will be held on Thursday, September 17th. There will be a [morning](#) chat at 10am and an [evening](#) chat at 5pm. Click on the links to the join either chat.

Parent Involvement Incentives

We will continue to award five (5) Whittier Bucks to students whose parents are involved in school activities. Most of these activities will be virtual until February. Students may accumulate the bucks and redeem them in Whittier School Store when in-person instruction resumes.

Farewell!



On June 26, 2020 the Whittier students, staff and community gathered to say a hearty farewell to Principal Roxie Thomas. Thank you to all of you who joined the parade and made this day a memorable one for Principal Thomas. I am sure that Principal Thomas will still be seen throughout the halls of Whittier Elementary School from time to time. Her excellent leadership, commitment and devotion to the students and families of Harvey, IL, School District #152 and Whittier Elementary school will always be remembered. Her love and kindness will continue to shine through the students that she touched. We wish her many blessings in her next chapter!

