

Dear Haldane School Community Members,

May 25th, 2022

It is with great enthusiasm that I am taking this opportunity to introduce myself to you. As of June 6th, 2022, I will have the honor of assuming the role of Director of Pupil Personnel Services (PPS) for the Haldane Central school District. In this role, I will have the privilege of working with students in all grade-levels, from Pre-K through grade 12 and beyond, and with all faculty, staff, and families in the district. The primary role of Director of PPS involves ensuring that all students are able to have equitable access to the curriculum and are provided what they need to progress and to thrive - in all areas of their school lives. To that end, I will work diligently with the district-wide and school-based teams, as well as the families, to support the academic and social-emotional growth of all of the students. I will especially attend to those students who may experience challenges in their learning journey and/or who have diverse learning and/or behavioral needs.

I believe that a good education should open doors for all students, should cultivate enthusiasm for learning, and should be focused on developing a child's strengths and passions. Rather than emphasize limitations, educators should engage with family and community members to highlight the amazing gifts and talents that each child possesses and should find ways to cultivate those skills, while also guiding students to become critical thinkers who can contribute in meaningful and ethical ways to our changing world. I also believe that every student deserves to feel a sense of belonging. The Haldane community is a unique and diverse one, and the caring and support that is demonstrated for the important work of the schools is evident. I look forward to engaging with the community and to building upon that strength to ensure that *all of our learners* feel connected and valued.

Improving the lives of children has been my life's work. Having first been a teacher for a time in the NYC public schools, I was fortunate to be able to take some time to raise my children. When I returned to full-time work, I combined my psychology degree with my love for children and teaching and became a NYS Certified School Psychologist. In that position, I took on many leadership roles, including CSE Chairperson, DEI Leader, and member of the Building Leadership Team. Additionally, I mentored many aspiring school psychology graduate students and was an Adjunct Professor for many years. I also returned to school more recently to complete my doctoral degree at Fordham University in Educational Leadership, Administration and Policy. This past year, I was a full-time professor in the Graduate School Psychology Program at Mercy College, where I also held several leadership positions. My journey has been one of continuous learning and discovery, and I look forward to applying the skills and knowledge that I have gained to continuing the excellent work already being done at Haldane. I am excited to learn *about and from* all of the community members, especially the students, and I look forward to a collaborative and effective partnership. Together, we can accomplish so much!

Throughout the spring, summer and throughout the upcoming school year, I will be proactively engaging in learning opportunities district wide. I hope to meet each and every one of you, as well as your children, and to get to know more about all of the many gifts each person brings. I would like to welcome you to reach out to me personally if you would like to connect or share. And finally, I would like to thank the Haldane School Trustees, as well as the Superintendent of Schools, Dr. Phil Benante, for the trust they have extended to me. Working with your children is a privilege and an honor that I will take with the seriousness of purpose that it deserves.

Sincerely,

Dr. Regina Kaishian