SINGAPORE AMERICAN SCHOOL

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Wednesday, September 25, 2024

Dear SAS Community,

I am thrilled to introduce myself as one of the new Deputy Principals in the Middle School. My name is Ruth Herrin, and I am honored to have the opportunity to join such a dynamic and vibrant community.

My journey to Singapore American School has been shaped by my experiences teaching and leading in the United States, China, Nepal, and Mexico. Most recently, I served as Secondary School Assistant Principal at the American International School of Guangzhou. But who I am is an amalgamation of my upbringing in the Ozarks on a small farm, my wild-child era in young adulthood, and my academic intrigues in later life. Also, my undeniable delight in pizza, nachos, peanut butter, and finding the spiciest foods and condiments.

Coming from a family that valued education but did not always have the resources to support it, school was a safe space for me. This wasn't always true for my two wonderfully different brothers. I bring all these experiences with me as I enter this new community, and I am excited to learn alongside you (hopefully with a bit of our *inner wild childs* still shining through)!

I believe that open communication and collaboration are key to creating a successful and thriving school community. I am committed to amplifying the voices of the marginalized and ensuring that everyone in our community can be their true, authentic selves. In what may seem overly academic but is genuinely a catalyst of all that I do, my guiding philosophy drives me to ensure that we work within a dialogic structure that integrates the voices of our community into decision-making. For me, education is a liberating process that engages us in inquiry and cognition.

It's because of that philosophy that I love getting into classrooms and engaging with excellent educators and learners in their spaces. I liken classroom observations to watching athletes in their prime out on the pitch: observing an expert get into a flow state and bring to life the science and art of education is thrilling.

Finally, thank you for the incredibly warm welcome I've already received from the SAS community! I am truly excited to get to know each of you and work together to create an exceptional learning environment for our students. This is a commitment I take to heart and will strive to uphold every day.

Sincerely,
Ruth Herrin
(she/her)