

FROM THE DESK OF ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

Dr. Rebecca Lozada

Where flowers bloom, so does hope. Lady Bird Johnson

The beginning of Spring is a time of renewal and endless possibilities—it's when the world comes back alive. Animals awaken from their long winter slumber, buds appear on bare branches, and dormant seeds begin to grow. In our schools, our scholars are also coming into their own and blossoming into their potential as learners. They are developing mastery of the content and finding their voice within their learning communities. It is always amazing to watch the transformation that students undergo from the beginning of the school year until now. A seed needs the right amount of sun, soil, and water in order to grow. With a welcoming and affirming school culture, high expectations, and rigorous learning experiences, all our students are capable of growing into excellence—NO EXCEPTIONS.

Our students are amazing! As I visit schools across District 32, I am struck by the insights our students share. I have had the privilege of visiting classrooms and listening to the rich discourse students engage in with their peers. In one elementary school classroom, for example, students explored how they could balance the needs of humanity in the present while also ensuring our future addressing the use of plastics within their community. At a restorative circle session with our middle school students, one scholar spoke passionately about improving both the quality and quantity of school lunch in order to promote the nutritional value of school meals. Our students are such a wealth of knowledge, experiences, and perspectives. Our students need to know that their voices matter and that they are agents of change within their community. We need to continue to cultivate opportunities for them to amplify their voice and develop leadership.

We've partnered with Ms. Sheryl Prince from Elevated Youth Inc. to facilitate our bi-monthly District 32 H.O.P.E. Student Council with the very intention to build the capacity of our students for advocacy. Our efforts align directly with Chancellor Banks' commitment to building civics opportunities for our scholars. I look forward to witnessing the impact that this fantastic group of student leaders will have on our District community in the near future!

As a District leader, I remain committed to accelerating learning, advancing equity, and activating our community in hope for all students across all 19 of our schools. I believe in investing in our teachers and our school leaders so we can truly prepare our students to be 21st Century contributors of the world. Our scholars are our WHY. Regardless of the changes that may be coming, our efforts remain in service of the student and the families we have the privilege of having in our schools. I encourage everyone to continue to share their thoughts with me. Your questions and feedback help us as a District Team to refine our approach as we scale and sustain excellence in education across Bushwick, Brooklyn. We are capable of success—NO EXCEPTIONS!

