August 15, 2011

Dear Long Mill Elementary School Community:

It is with shear joy and anticipation that I greet you! My name is Mrs. Erica S. Royster and I will be one of your Principal-Interns this school year. As an intern of Long Mill Elementary School, it is a sincere pleasure and honor to become a member of this great school community. I have studied your school’s progress and high growth and am privileged to work with such inspiring educators. Although I only started a few days ago, it is already apparent to me that this is a caring and welcoming environment.  I am looking forward to learning from you and your students.  I know that you all have a close working relationship and are focused upon what is best for the children. My goal is to simply join that alliance.

I began my educational career over ten years ago when I joined Teach For America, a national corps of leaders whose mission is to eliminate the educational disparities between students growing in low-income communities and their more affluent peers. I served as a fourth grade teacher and understand the importance of a solid educational foundation. As a result of my experience, my career path changed and I discovered my passion for leading and helping other. I fell in love with teaching and recognized the dire call for dedicated and quality educators. I became a lifelong proponent for educational equity. Currently, I am a Fellow with the Northeast Leadership Academy (NELA) at North Carolina State University aspiring to be an administrator in the Northeast Region of North Carolina.

I firmly believe that America’s greatest hope for the future rests in our schools. As a teacher I experienced some success; however, my students have succeeded most when my classroom and those of my colleagues expected high expectations. My most inspirational moments in education have taken place when I felt as if I was a part of something much greater than the lessons taught within the four walls of my classroom.

I am honored to now have this chance to work with you as I continue my journey on the path to becoming a school administrator. One of my biggest responsibilities as a Principal Intern is to ensure that I am an asset to Long Mill Elementary School.  I want to help ensure that each child receives a quality education within a safe, respectful environment.   I desire to grow with you and anticipate a year of learning and working together.

If I can be of assistance to you, feel free to contact me with any questions, concerns, or just to introduce yourself.  Working together only enhances our educational experiences.

Best,

Erica S. Royster