

Greetings and Salutations to the Paul D. West Family!

My name is Darrell L. Stephens, and I am the new principal of Paul D. West Middle School (PDWMS). I have 21 years of experience in public education, as well as, 13 years of service in the military (United States Marine Corps). I am from Columbia, South Carolina. I completed my undergraduate degree in mathematics at Clemson University, and I earned my master's degree from the University of North Carolina. I have also earned both a specialist, and doctorate degree, from Georgia College & State University and Georgia Southern University, respectively. I have taught secondary (both middle and high school) mathematics, as well as, having served as an instructional coach, and "gifted" teacher.

I have four adorable kids, Brittany, Nicolas, and twins, Darnell & Darren. I also have two precious grandchildren, Liberty and Dylan.

As principal, I will provide the children of Paul D. West Middle a safe environment and give them every opportunity possible to be successful. Assessment results will lead us, children will be our priority, and we will work for each other rather than against.

PDWMS exists to serve the unique academic, physical, social, and emotional needs of the middle school learner. We will strive to prepare our students for their journey to high school. Our faculty and staff are committed to setting high expectations for all students by providing challenging academic pathways balanced with strong supportive systems. Know that I firmly believe in the cooperative effort of teachers, parents, and community in leading our students.

It is my intention, as principal, to maintain East Point un-encumbering tradition and history, of having an atmosphere of community inclusion. I want to thank all of you for the opportunity to continue to work in my passion.