



**Charting a course of excellence
Trazando un camino a la excelencia**

Nathaniel Bowditch School
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Nora E. Pou, Principal
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Dear Parents and Staff:

It is with great anticipation and enthusiasm that I begin my role as School Principal at the Nathaniel Bowditch School this school year. It is a true honor to join a school that has at its core a belief that all students can reach heights of excellence in education, a commitment to dual language education as a means to foster global understanding and an appreciation of cultural diversity, and the investment of a strong community supporting students' success. I look forward to a fruitful collaboration with all of you that will make our school stronger in the years to come.

While visiting the school during the month of June, I had the privilege of meeting many of you. I am greatly appreciative of your willingness to assist with my transition to the school. My hope is to meet as many of you as possible during the summer and continue conversations throughout the school year. During the months of July and August, I will reserve Tuesdays from 12:00 noon to 1:30 PM to informally meet with people who wish to come say hello. Later in August, the PTO Leadership and I will host a reception for parents and staff so that we can have another opportunity to meet before the school year begins.

In the interim, let me share some information about myself, and my goals for this period of transition to the Nathaniel Bowditch School.

As you may know already, I come to the Bowditch School with some 25 years of experience. Throughout my career as an educator, I have had many wonderful opportunities to work as a teacher, instructional coach and school administrator in school settings where I feel I not only made a difference, but also, was able to learn and grow professionally and personally. I am proud to have been a member of the inspiring and vibrant professional learning community at the following schools: Escuela Nilmar in Puerto Rico and the Rafael Hernandez School in Boston, Hurley School in Boston, Barbieri School in Framingham, International Charter School in Rhode Island (all four schools have a Dual Language Spanish/English Bilingual Program) and Bennett Hemenway School in Natick. I hold a Certificate of Advanced Studies from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, a Masters in Education from Boston University and a Bachelors of Arts in Education from the University of Puerto Rico. I am confident that my experiences in these settings will serve me well at the Bowditch School.

One important lesson I've learned from my years as a school administrator is the importance of understanding what members of a school community consider to be their proudest accomplishments, their hopes and aspirations as well as their needs for growth and improvement. It is my primary goal to learn about these during the first stage of my entry to the Bowditch School Community. Other important goals are to:

- Become known in the community by sharing my leadership, educational and management core beliefs. Establish a positive tone and pace to guide the commitment to support all students' achievement.
- Establish strong working relationships and build rapport with school district administrators, teachers, parents and community leaders.
- Prepare for the opening of the school year.
- Develop a strategic plan with specific action steps to guide the work of the Leadership Team and School Council to assist in the implementation of the district's educational agenda and a long-term plan for school improvement and innovation at the Nathaniel Bowditch School.

I have devised a specific plan to meet these goals that I will later share with you. I trust this information proves helpful as we begin our partnership. Again, feel free to stop by on Tuesdays during the summer to come meet with me. You can also reach me by e-mail during the summer months at norapou@salemk12.org

Looking forward to seeing you soon. Have a restful and enjoyable summer!

Sincerely,