Dear DREAM Families,

Welcome to the 2017 – 2018 school year! Whether this is your first or your last year with us, we hope that you know that you are an incredibly important partner in this work! We look forward to working together with you every step of the way on your child’s path from Pre-K to college to the life of his/her dreams.

In fact, we couldn’t do this work without you! Research has shown time and time again that the most reliable predictor of a child’s success is not their income level, race, or zipcode, but rather their family’s involvement in their education. That is why DREAM has a Family and Community Engagement Dept. that is dedicated to providing you with a wide range of different opportunities to become engaged in your child’s education.

This Family Guide provides a menu of options for you and your family to become involved or stay involved here at DREAM. Whether you become a family leader with our DREAM Family Action Council, attend a family workshop, volunteer for a special event, or work with your child at home to be the best scholar that he or she can be, you hold the key to your child and our community’s future success.

We hope that you will be in touch throughout the year. It takes a village to raise a child, and we are so thankful to have you as a valued member of our school community.

Sincerely,
Rosmery Hidalgo
DREAM Family Coordinator
SEE WHAT’S INSIDE!

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FIVE STEPS TO SUCCESS

Your scholar is on the road to college, success, and realizing their dreams, but they can't get there without your support.

STEP 1: ENSURE THAT YOUR CHILD COMES TO SCHOOL ON TIME EVERY DAY

The leading cause of academic failure is absenteeism. In order for your child to succeed academically, they must be in school, on-time every day for learning. To help your child succeed:

- Set a regular bed time and morning routine.
- Talk with your child about the importance of arriving to school on time everyday and help them plan a route that will help them arrive on time.
- Monitor your child’s attendance record to ensure that they arrive on time everyday.
- Ensure that your child goes to bed in time to get at least 8 hours of sleep a night.
- Help your child get in the habit of laying out their clothes and packing their backpacks every night.
- Plan all medical and dental appointments and trips when school is not in session.
- Allow your child to stay home only when they are truly sick.
- Contact your child’s teachers and the school social work team if your child seems anxious about going to school for advice on how to make her feel comfortable and excited about learning.
- Make sure to have a back up plan in place so that a family member, neighbor, or friend can take your child to school in case of an emergency.
STEP 2: MAKE SURE YOUR SCHOLAR READS AT HOME EVERYDAY.

Reading proficiency by third grade is one of the most important predictors of high school graduation and career success.

Yet every year, more than 80 percent of low-income children miss this milestone. To make sure your child reads on grade level:

• Ensure that your child reads every single day (even on the weekends!)

• Make reading fun by helping your scholar pick books that interest him/her and are appropriate for his/her reading level.

• Ask questions to help boost your child's understanding of what he/she is reading. You can ask:
  • What is the plot of the book?
  • Where is it set?
  • Who are the main characters? How would you describe them?
  • What was funny/sad/exciting in the book?
  • Would you recommend the book to a friend?

• Reach out to your child’s teacher for more tips on how to support a struggling reader.
STEP 3: ESTABLISH A DAILY HOMEWORK ROUTINE

Homework gives your child a chance to practice the important skills that they learned during the day’s lessons. It also helps teachers understand which concepts scholars grasp and which concepts may need to be retaught. Homework can help you understand more about what your child is learning in school and help your make important connections at home. To help your child excel:

• Schedule a consistent time each day for your scholar to do homework.
• Talk with your child about the importance of homework.
• If you have a Middle School scholar, review your scholar’s school planner with them to ensure that they write down and complete all assignments and meet all deadlines.
• Ensure that your child has a comfortable and quiet place to complete their homework free from distracting noises from the TV, cell phone, etc.
• Praise your child when you see that he/she is giving his/her best effort.
• If your child is in elementary school, sign their homework at the end of every day. If your child is in middle school, ask to see their DREAM check at the end of every week.
STEP 4: BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER IN YOUR CHILD’S LEARNING

Family involvement is a greater predictor of a child's success than a family's income. Children earn higher grades, higher test scores, and have higher self-esteem when their families are involved in their learning. To help your child reap these benefits and achieve their dreams:

- Set and uphold high expectations for your child that include that he/she will graduate from college.
- Check your child’s homework folder on a daily basis. Read and respond to all school communications in a timely manner.
- Attend all Family Conferences so that you can understand your child's academic progress and support your child's learning at home.
- Stay in touch with your child’s teachers. Reach out to the school should you have any questions, comments, or concerns.
- Contact the school’s Family Engagement or Social Work teams should you experience any difficulties that might prevent you from being involved in your child’s learning.
- Participate in family workshops, family nights, and other school activities designed to provide you with opportunities to play an active role in your child’s education.
STEP 5: SUPPORT YOUR CHILD’S SOCIO-EMOTIONAL GROWTH

You are your child’s first and most important teacher.
Your child’s success depends on your ability to model, reinforce, and praise the kind of great behavior that leads to success.

Some ways you can do this are to:

• Help your child understand what is expected of him/her by being clear about your own expectations, setting limits, and being consistent.

• Encourage your child to take risks and view mistakes as opportunities to learn.

• Let your child know that you are there to listen to and support them. Dedicate time and space everyday to actively listen to your child.

• Help your child to identify and explore their passions and interests by taking them to museums, concerts, sports games and other activities.

• Encourage your child to make friends and involve him/her in activities with other children.

• Support your child’s ability to cope with and solve problems.

Being a Parent/ Caregiver is not easy, but there are lots of people who can support you along the journey! Reach out to the DREAM Family Engagement Dept. should you ever need a helping hand.
OPPORTUNITIES FOR INVOLVEMENT

COMMUNITY GATHERINGS (K-8)
DREAM welcomes family members to attend our Elementary / Middle School Community Gatherings. At Community Gatherings, DREAM previews the upcoming academic units (middle school), builds connections, and reflects upon our shared values as a community. Scholars are awarded special recognitions, and classes engage in interactive activities designed to promote their learning. This year Community Gatherings will take place on the following dates at 8:15 a.m.:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</th>
<th>MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mon, September 11</td>
<td>Mon, October 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, October 23 (3-5 only)</td>
<td>Mon, November 6</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, October 30 (K-2 only)</td>
<td>Mon, December 4</td>
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<td>Mon, November 2</td>
<td>Wed, January 3</td>
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<td>Mon, December 11</td>
<td>Mon, February 26</td>
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<td>Mon, February 5</td>
<td>Mon, April 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, March 12 (3-5 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, March 19 (K-2 only)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mon, May 21</td>
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DREAM FAMILY CAFÉS
Following monthly Community Gatherings, DREAM families are invited to have coffee with our Principals to hear the latest school news, share thoughts and concerns and build relationships with school leadership. This year Family Café will take place on the following dates

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PRE K</th>
<th>ELEMENTARY SCHOOL</th>
<th>MIDDLE SCHOOL</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Wed, September 6</td>
<td>Mon, September 11</td>
<td>Mon, October 2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tue, November 28</td>
<td>Mon, October 16</td>
<td>Mon, November 6</td>
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<td>Thu, February 15</td>
<td>Mon, November 20</td>
<td>Mon, December 4</td>
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<td>Thu, April 26</td>
<td>Mon, December 11</td>
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<td>Mon, May 21</td>
<td>Mon, June 11</td>
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DREAM Charter Advocacy (PK-8th)
DREAM families work to promote the rights of charter school students and families by participating in charter school advocacy events including an annual trip to Albany to visit state legislators.

CLASSROOM CAPTAINS (PK-8th)
Classroom Captains are family volunteers who serve their child's classroom by communicating important information to other family members and recruiting family volunteers to enhance school-wide and classroom events.

DREAM FAMILY AMBASSADORS (PK-8th)
DREAM Family Ambassadors assist our school at school recruitment and enrollment events, serve as school tour guides, and represent our school in the community.

RAISING READERS (PK-5th)
DREAM invites family members into the classrooms to read a book with scholars in an effort to promote literacy and show our scholars that we are a community of readers. This year, DREAM Raising Readers will take place on March 9.

FAMILY FRIDAYS (PK-5th)
Throughout the year, DREAM invites families into their children's classrooms to observe classroom learning and participate in reading, math, and other interactive classroom activities. This year, DREAM Family Fridays will take place on:

**PRE K**
- September 15
- October 13
- November 9
- January 5
- February 9
- March 16
- April 13
- May 18
- June 15

**ELEMENTARY SCHOOL**
- October 6
- December 1
- February 2
- April 20
DREAM FAMILY ACTION COUNCIL (DFAC)
DREAM Family Action Council (DFAC) is a group of DREAM family leaders who work to ensure that every family at DREAM has a voice in our school. DFAC meets once every month (see monthly calendar for dates and times). DFAC supports DREAM Charter School by developing an active and involved family body and also serves as an avenue of communication between families, administration and faculty. Throughout the year, DFAC members develop fun school activities, family projects and fundraising opportunities. DFAC meetings are great places to get the latest school news, provide feedback on important school-wide decisions and take an active role in planning and carrying out school events. DFAC is open to all DREAM families.

Yoselin Flores, President
My name is Yoselin Flores. I am a very proud parent of two scholars at DREAM Charter School. My daughter is 10 years old and she's going to 5th grade and my son is 5 years old and he's going to 1st grade. I am currently DFAC's President. It has been an honor to be trusted as the voice of all parents at DREAM. It has been a great experience and I am so excited to working with all families this year!

Wagner Mattarita, Vice President
Hello, my name is Wagner and I am the father of Nicolle who is in the third grade at DREAM. I'm the DFAC Vice President and am very involved in different activities in the school. My goal is to help my daughters and all of our children achieve their academic success. I look forward to collaborating with all of you in hopes to make growth and help our children become better citizens for this city. I especially look forward to showcasing all of the great talents that come from our beautiful neighborhood.

Ilene Brettler, Treasurer
My name is Ilene Brettler. I have a 13 year old daughter named Jolita who has been with DREAM since she was in Kindergarten and now attends Spence High School. My goddaughter Meme is in Kindergarten at DREAM this year as is my godson Mekhi who is in 8th grade. I am a very caring, genuine, and smart young lady. I love to read in my spare time and also love to help others. I'm am all about my daughters' education and taking care of children in our community.
Guillermina Ortiz, Recording Secretary
My name is Guillermina and I am the mother of three Dream Scholars: Jennifer in Kindergarten, José Miguel in 2nd Grade, and Brandon in 6th grade. I am the Recording Secretary of DFAC and am also a volunteer with the Family Engagement Department. I speak Spanish and am learning English.

Shakeara Perry West, Communications Secretary
My name is Shakeara Perry West. My daughter, S’mya, is in Kindergarten at DREAM. I work in DREAM’s REAL Kids after school program and love getting a chance to help our scholars’ play, learn, and grow.

DREAM FAMILY WORKSHOPS

Family workshops are interactive opportunities for families to learn new information and skills, share best practices with others, and form stronger support networks in the school and community. Every year, DREAM offers a variety of workshops based on families’ interests and needs. Current workshop offerings include: (Please check the school monthly calendar for workshop dates.)

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOUR CHILD STARTS KINDERGARTEN
Kindergarten is an exciting time full of changes as your child adapts to new schedules, new friends, and new routines. Learn how to help your child have a successful entry into Kindergarten and develop a positive attitude about school and learning.

ESTABLISHING HEALTHY ROUTINES FOR SCHOOL SUCCESS
Have you ever struggled to get your child out of bed on a school day? Is getting your child to do their homework like pulling teeth? Get practical tools and tips on how to set your child up for success by establishing healthy routines for school success.

HIGH SCHOOL 101
Learn from DREAM’s Senior Manager of High School Placement about the process for applying and getting accepted to high performing high schools. Find out what you and your child can do now to prepare for a successful high school transition. Learn how to pick the school that best fits your child’s needs and talents.
HOW TO RAISE A READER
How can you help your child learn to love reading? How can you make sure that your child is reading the right books for his/her reading level? What are some strategies to make reading fun?

THE TALK: HOW TO TALK ABOUT PUBERTY AND SEX WITH YOUR ADOLESCENT
Have you struggled to find ways to communicate with your child about their changing body and the importance of healthy relationships and safe sex? Learn from DREAM’s years of experience working with teens around these issues, and get practical tips that you can use today.

SPECIAL EDUCATION 101
What is an IEP? What is the CSE? How can you learn more about the services that your child qualifies for without all the confusing abbreviations? Meet DREAM’s service providers, and find out more about how to navigate your child’s journey through the special education system. Learn more about your parental rights and how to be your child’s best advocate.

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT THE NEW YORK STATE TEST AND HOW TO HELP YOUR SCHOLAR SUCCEED
Join DREAM’s instructional leadership team for a workshop that focuses on the 3rd - 8th grade New York State Exams. Learn what DREAM is doing to prepare scholars during the school day, and what you can do at home to ensure your scholar’s success.

CHARTER SCHOOL 101
Find out what makes a Charter School different than a public school. Learn about your rights as a Charter parent, and get involved in the fight to protect your child’s right to an excellent education.

COLLEGE SAVINGS 101
Learn about the costs of college, and how you can start preparing now to finance your scholar’s college career!

CYBERBULLYING: PARENTING IN THE DIGITAL AGE
Learn best practices about how to set limits with your pre-teen when it comes to technology, and get concrete strategies to use to prevent cyberbullying.

NUTRITION AND WELLNESS WORKSHOPS
Learn how to promote healthy eating and exercise in your household and reduce the presence of diabetes and obesity in our community.
FAMILY EDUCATION CLASSES

At DREAM, we know that our combined success depends on our ability to build a community of learners, invested in continuing our search for knowledge and growth. That is why in addition to offering classes to scholars and staff, DREAM also offers classes to families, based upon families’ interests and needs. (The ability to offer classes depends on the number of families interested. Please contact the Family Engagement Office if you are interested in participating in classes during the 2017-2018 school year.)

THE PARENTING JOURNEY
DREAM partners with Harlem RBI to build safer, stronger families by offering the Parenting Journey workshop series designed to help parents build the inner strength, resources, and social networks necessary for success.

FINANCIAL LITERACY
DREAM partners with the Neighborhood Trust to offer free financial literacy courses that help families identify their credit scores and create financial plans.

DREAM CHARTER SCHOOL LEGAL CLINIC

DREAM partners with Volunteers of Legal Service and Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom to provide on-site, one time, free legal consultations to DREAM families dealing with housing, immigration, public benefits and other legal issues throughout the year. Legal clinics take place the last Tuesday of every month at 8:05 a.m. To register to attend the free legal clinic fill out and return the legal clinic intake form with the Family Engagement Dept.

DREAM FAMILY SPECIAL EVENTS

CURRICULUM NIGHT & BACK TO SCHOOL PICNIC (PK-8th)
Wednesday, September 27 – 4:15 PM
Visit your scholar’s classroom and learn from your child's teachers about what your child will learn throughout the year, how your child’s work will be assessed, and what you can do to help your child succeed at DREAM. Then join your child’s class on the Field of Dreams for a fun filled Back to School Picnic!
HARVEST FEST (PK-5th)
Thursday, October 26 - 5:00 PM
Harvest Fest is an annual DREAM Family event where DREAM scholars and their families play harvest games, make harvest arts and crafts and enjoy a wonderful time with fellow DREAM families and friends.

MIDDLE SCHOOL CULTURE FAIR (6th-8th)
Thursday, November 16 – 5:45 PM
As part of their unit on culture, Middle School scholars explore their families cultural backgrounds and give presentations to the larger community about a specific topic of interest.

WINTER POTLUCK (PK-5th)
Thursday, December 7 – 5:45PM
The Winter Potluck is a time for DREAM families to gather with DREAM staff to share a delicious meal and build a strong school community.

MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY CELEBRATION (PK-8th)
Thursday, January 11
At this celebration, DREAM community reflects upon the life and dream of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and how we can all work together to keep that dream alive today.

MIDDLE SCHOOL POETRY NIGHT (6th-8th)
Thursday, March 1 – 5:45 PM
As part of their unit on identity, Middle School scholars write poetry and create art to express who they are. Families are invited to visit the Middle School gallery where scholars' works will be exhibited, and sip a cup of hot cocoa during our scholars' open mic night.

FAMILY LITERACY NIGHT (PK-5th)
Wednesday, February 15 – 4:20 PM
Every year, DREAM develops fun-filled Family Literacy Nights designed to promote the joy of reading and create life-long learners! Past Family Literacy Nights have included Reading Zoo, Travel back in time, Solving the Mystery of the W.I.N. Drum, Dress Like Your Favorite Literary Character, and Camp Out With A Good Book.
FAMILY MATH NIGHT (PK-5th)
Thursday, March 28 4:20PM
Pre K to 5th Grade Families and scholars are invited to attend a night of fun-filled math games & activities designed to promote our love for math! Families will be provided with fun tools to support their scholars learning at home.

FAMILY CONFERENCES

DREAM holds three mandatory Family Conferences a year for families and an additional Academic Progress Conference mid year for select scholars in need of extra support. Family Conferences are important opportunities for families to connect with teachers to receive the latest report card, discuss academic growth, and develop strategies to support learning at home and in school. Families are encouraged to remain in communication with teachers throughout the year, and can request additional meetings via email or phone at any time to discuss their child’s progress.

• Tuesday, November 7 (All Scholars)
• Wednesday, January 31 (Select Scholars)
• Wednesday, April 18 (All Scholars)
• Monday, June 18 (All Scholars)

TIPS FOR SUCCESSFUL FAMILY CONFERENCES

1. Talk with your child before the conference about how things are going at school.
2. Share information with teachers about your child’s strengths and interests.
3. Ask Questions:
   - What will my child be expected to learn this year?
   - Are there standards in place that will help measure my child’s growth?
   - Can you show me an example of my child’s work?
   - How will my child be evaluated?
   - How will I be made aware of my child’s progress?
   - What can I do to support my child’s learning at home?
4. Create a plan with your child’s teacher with specific steps for how to collaboratively work with your child to ensure your child’s academic success.
5. Follow up with your child’s teacher after the conference to track your child’s progress and revise your work plan.
WHO CAN ANSWER MY QUESTIONS?

All DREAM Staff can be reached at 212.722.0232.

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<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Who to speak to at DREAM</th>
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| I have a question about schoolwork, tests, class field trips, homework, and anything that takes place inside of the classroom. I want to know how I can best support my child’s learning at home. | Your Child’s Teacher Email – First letter of teacher's first name followed by their last name @wearedream.org  
Ex: Ima Teacher – iteacher@wearedream.org                                                                                                  |
| I have a question about music and theater, physical education, science, or art at DREAM. I want to know more about a project, special field trip, or other issue within a particular specials class. | Music & Theater Specialist: Cherelle Hale  
chale@wearedream.org  
Health & Wellness Specialist: Christine Scott  
cscott@wearedream.org  
Art Specialist:  
Kandice Stewart  
kstewart@wearedream.org  
Science Specialists:  
Akiel Benn  
abenn@wearedream.org  
Emily Kain  
ekain@wearedream.org  
Peter Boylan  
pboylan@wearedream.org |
| I have a question about modifications being made to address my child’s special learning needs or questions about my child’s services and supports. | Student Support Coordinators:  
Susie Purviance (ES)  
spurviance@wearedream.org  
Jacqueline Begnoche (MS)  
jbegnoche@wearedream.org |
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| I have a question concerning student enrollment, the lottery, student  | **Operations Coordinator:**  
|   records, school uniforms, transportation, or school lunch. I need   | Adromahi Kontos  
|   to advise someone of my change of address/phone number or update my  | akontos@wearedream.org  
|   emergency contacts.                                                  | **Family Support Coordinator:**  
|                                                                         | Marilyne Tirado  
|                                                                         | mtirado@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                  |
| I have a question about the school’s culture, discipline policy,       | **Dean of Students:**  
|   behavioral expectations, suspensions or other disciplinary actions.  | Brett Fazio  
|   I want to know how the school deals with bullying.                   | bfazio@wearedream.org  
|                                                                         | **Assistant Dean of Students:**  
|                                                                         | Angel Lopez  
|                                                                         | alopez@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                  |
| I would like to discuss an important or sensitive issue that I feel is  | **School Social Worker:**  
|   affecting my child and family. I need help to find a support or     | Aaron Kahn (MS)  
|   program in the community for me or my family. I have a concern about | akahn@wearedream.org  
|   my child’s feelings or behavior and need to speak to someone other   | **School Counselor:**  
|   than my child’s teacher.                                            | Ashley Kile (ES)  
|                                                                         | amkile@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                  |
| I have a question about how I can be involved as a family member at    | **Family Engagement Coordinator:**  
|   DREAM Charter School. I want to know more about DREAM’s legal clinic | Rosemary Hidalgo  
|   and/or other community resources. I need help with an issue and     | rhidalgo@wearedream.org  
|   don’t know who to go to for help.                                    | **Director of Family Engagement:**  
|                                                                         | Dery Rodriguez  
|                                                                         | drodriguez@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                |
| I have a question about Harlem RBI’s after-school or summer            | **REAL Kids Campus Manager (ES):**  
|   programming.                                                         | Emmerson Yaxte  
|                                                                         | eyaxte@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                  |
|                                                                         | **Dreambuilders Campus Manager (MS):**  
|                                                                         | Whitney Vairin  
<p>|                                                                         | <a href="mailto:wvairin@wearedream.org">wvairin@wearedream.org</a>                                                                                                                                  |</p>
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| I have a question concerning DREAM's school wide policies and operations including attendance, facilities, and security.                                                                                     | **Senior Manager of Operations:** Maritza Barcelona  
mbarcelona@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                                       |
| I have a question about how to choose the high school that is right for my son/daughter. I want to know what my child's options are.                                                                          | **Senior Manager of High School Placement:** Hannah Gray Miller  
hgmillier@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                                     |
| I have a question concerning the school's curriculum or instructional approach, report cards, NYS ELA and Math Tests, other school wide assessments. I have spoken to my child's teacher but still have a concern. | **Academic Deans:** Renee Canales (K-2)  
rcanales@wearedream.org  
Jamie Platzer (3-5)  
jplatzer@wearedream.org  
Elizabeth Solaimanian (MS)  
esolaimanian@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                                   |
| I have a question about DREAM's overall performance and goals. I have spoken to the Academic Deans, but still have questions.                                                                                 | **Principals:** Christine Wicks (Pre K)  
cwicks@wearedream.org  
Kara Brockett (ES)  
kbrockett@wearedream.org  
Marjorie Gardner (MS)  
mgardner@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                                 |
| I have spoken to the appropriate person, but still have a concern about a DREAM policy, procedure, or staff member that I need help resolving.                                                                | **Head of School:** Eve Colavito  
ecolavito@wearedream.org                                                                                                                                                                    |
PROCESS FOR SHARING CONCERNS AND FINDING SOLUTIONS

STEP 1
Request a meeting with the staff person involved at a mutually agreeable time to directly communicate your concern and resolve the situation.

STEP 2
If you feel that your concern has not been resolved after this meeting, request a meeting with the School Principal.

STEP 3
If after meeting with the School Principal, you wish to seek further assistance, you may request to meet with the Head of School. Your request should be directed to the Manager of School Administration who will schedule a meeting.

We are at all times models for our scholars and school community, and ask that all parties model DREAM’s values of diversity, respect, effort, enthusiasm, mindfulness, and teamwork at all times, especially when sharing concerns and finding solutions.

The Family Engagement Department is available to answer questions and assist families throughout this process.

Rosmery Hidalgo
646-302-7600
rhidalgo@wearedream.org