

Three new Elementary Principals will join the Danbury Public Schools for the 2017-18 school year. Dr. Sal Pascarella, Superintendent of Schools, has announced that Carmen Vargas-Guerara has been selected as the next Principal of South Street Elementary School. Ms. Vargas-Guerara is a graduate of Salem State College, with both elementary and Special Education degrees, and she later earned a Master's Degree in Educational Leadership from Cambridge College. "With her vast experience working with diverse groups of students, including English Language Learners, Ms. Vargas-Guerara brings a special blend of building leadership and experiences to the South Street School community. We were impressed with her ability to balance the learning needs of all students, while also providing strong leadership and support to the faculty, parents and community members involved in the life of her school," said Dr. Pascarella.

The District has also appointed a new Principal for the Academy of International Studies (AIS), Danbury's magnet elementary school with a Global Studies theme that draws students from neighboring towns and districts through lottery selection. Christopher Roche is a graduate of Sacred Heart University, in addition to earning his teaching certification from Texas State University and a degree in Educational Administration from Grand Canyon University in Phoenix, Arizona. Dr. Pascarella stated that "Mr. Roche impressed us with both his strategic vision for cultivating continued success at AIS and his willingness to roll his sleeves up to work alongside teachers for the benefit of all students. We are excited to bring Chris on board."

In addition, Dr. Sal V. Pascarella, Superintendent of the Danbury Public Schools, has announced the appointment of Dr. Jamel A. Gibson, Ph.D as the next Principal of Shelter Rock Elementary School. Originally from New York, Dr. Gibson received his Bachelor's Degree in Music Performance from the University of Hartford, and began his career as an elementary music teacher in Virginia. Dr. Gibson went on to earn a Master's in Educational Interdisciplinary Studies and an Administration Certificate from Cambridge College, and a Ph.D in Educational Management from Hampton University. Most recently, Dr. Gibson has been an Assistant Elementary Principal in Newport News. "I am excited for Dr. Gibson to lead our Shelter Rock community this year. His focus on building connections between our youngest students, their families and school has been highly effective in driving student performance, and I look forward to his bringing that enthusiasm for learning and growth to our Shelter Rock community," Pascarella said.

Principals will begin their new assignments effective July 1, 2017.