I am extremely excited to introduce myself as the new principal of Diamond Lakes Elementary! I am eager to meet each one of you and your children as we embark on a new journey growing socially, emotionally, and academically together. I am honored to lead an amazing school and school community, which have already given me such a warm welcome. I have heard nothing but positive things about the students, staff, and parents of Diamond Lakes. It is copiously clear that this school is a special place, and our staff is dedicated and determined to help our GEMS shine bright this year!

I received my bachelor's degree in Middle Grades Education from Augusta State University in 2004. I also received both my Master's (2007) and Specialist's (2010) degree in Educational Leadership from Augusta State University as well. I taught at Glenn Hills Middle school for five years, four as an 8<sup>th</sup> grade math teacher, and one as a 6<sup>th</sup> grade ELA and Math teacher. I then spent six years as an Instructional Coach, five at Copeland Elementary, and one at Langford Middle. Afterwards, I served two years as an Administrative Intern at Meadowbrook Elementary. Most recently, I was the Assistant Principal at Meadowbrook Elementary for two years.

As I begin my 17<sup>th</sup> year in education, I am committed to helping develop the whole child. I believe that all students can and will learn with the most appropriate student-centered instruction. I plan to create and nurture a caring and inclusive school environment, and build strong relationships with the entire school community, to include students, faculty, staff, and families. I will also empower my staff, faculty, and students to embrace their own leadership roles, and collaborate with school/community stakeholders. The success of a school is contingent upon all stakeholders working together to ensure that our educational system is effective and meets the needs of all learners. I am confident that by working together, WE can achieve anything. I am a hands-on leader and cannot wait to watch our teachers and students in action in the classroom.

I have an open-door policy and welcome your conversation, support, and positive input throughout this year as we keep our students the primary focus of our work. I look forward to celebrating our collective successes during the 2022-2023 school year. Enjoy the remaining days of summer and I am looking forward to meeting each of you!

Sincerely,

Alicia D. Jeffers Principal