



JAMES MADISON HIGH SCHOOL

LEADING THROUGH EXCELLENCE AND EFFICIENCY



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Dear Students,

Welcome to James Madison High School! I am Ms. Shamekia Pickens, and I have the pleasure of being your English I teacher this year. I am a native Houstonian, product of the Houston Independent School District, and graduate of Texas Southern University. I have 20 years of teaching experience in grades eight through twelve, and this is my 15th year at Madison High School. In addition to teaching, I am an avid reader, movie buff, music lover, and gardener.

This year will be one of the most challenging of your high school career and hopefully one of the most rewarding. You will learn new routines, meet new people, advance your technology skills, and journey to new places through literature.

In this class, you will be exposed to traditional and contemporary texts, diverse authors, and gain the ability to think critically and express your ideas in a respectful, meaningful, and thought-out manner. While this class will be rigorous, it is my hope that you will learn to have an appreciation for language, develop sensitivity towards others, and uncover a newfound love of literature in a safe, caring, and supportive environment.

I look forward to a great year with you all. I am here to help promote your growth as a student, future leader, and productive citizen. Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or concerns at spickens@houstonisd.org, (713)433-9801, or Microsoft TEAMS.

Respectfully,

Shamekia Pickens