

April 23, 2020

Dear P.S. 095 Sheila Mencher Community,

It is with profound sadness that I write to share my condolences on the passing of Omara Flores, a beloved Assistant Principal who served P.S. 095 Sheila Mencher for over eighteen years and the New York City Department of Education for twenty-eight years.

Your Principal Serge Davis describes Ms. Flores as “a true professional who was really focused on improving each and every day to empower the lives of her teachers, students, and families.” Responsible for 7th and 8th grade, as well as serving as coordinator for your multi-language learning program, graduation ceremonies, and myriad other duties, Ms. Flores always maintained a calm, even-keeled demeanor amid the bustle, supporting and encouraging the positive culture of P.S. 095.

Lead Assistant Principal Eileen Rivera adds that Ms. Flores conducted herself in a way that served as an example for her students. Ms. Rivera says, “If a student was upset about something, Ms. Flores would stand by patiently until they calmed down and then quietly discussed with them how to manage the problem together. Every year, you could see tons of students mature as they emulated how she interacted with them.”

Particularly during Regents exam week, many former students regularly returned to visit P.S. 095 and always made a point of thanking Ms. Flores for all she did for them. Principal Davis said that several P.S. 095 students have dedicated themselves to doing well in school in the years ahead because they know that’s what Ms. Flores would have wanted. I know how much she loved you, and how much you loved her.

A loss like this would be heartbreaking during the best of times, but it is unbearable during this period of uncertainty and anxiety. Please know that I am here for you and that my first priority is to make every effort to keep all of our students and school communities safe and healthy. We are ensuring counseling and other critical supports are available for every student, staff member, and family member in the school community.

Again, we are profoundly saddened by this loss and extend our deepest condolences to Ms. Flores’s family. We are all experiencing a disorienting sense of confusion and grief, and it’s more important than ever to provide support to one another. We’ll be there for you through whatever means necessary during this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,



Richard A. Carranza
Chancellor
New York City Department of Education