*“I’m simply me and that is all I need to be.”*

*Dear Parents,*

*My name is Devika Bhalla, English Language Arts grade 8 teacher and I am glad to welcome you and your child to my classroom this year. I did my masters from University of West London, United Kingdom. I completed my Bachelors of Education from University of Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, India, specializing in English Language, and Bachelors of Commerce from Delhi University, Delhi, India I have taught in the Elementary grade , middle school as well as in high school for seventeen years. I have also worked as an Activity Coordinator and has been appreciated for organizing major events like annual sports or Annual award ceremonies. I am interested in reading and learning new words. Apart from that, I am always on a quest to meet new people and learn about their language and culture.*

Here is some more personal information about me. I am a proud Indian- The country well known for its hospitality and serenity. I am married to Mr Puneet Pal Bhalla.I have two kids. Elder son, Simar Bhalla is 18 years and my younger son, Krish is 13 years old. I am very religious person. Believes in God and cannot harm anyone. I am coffee lover and is afraid of dogs. I like partying with my friends.
**My faith:** “Keep your face to the sunshine and you cannot see a shadow.” Helen Keller
**My Strength**: My family and my friends.

*The coronavirus has touched or impacted each life in our community. “Normal” is not a word that is easily defined today or even tomorrow* *I know that, amid all the uncertainty and fear right now, it is overwhelming to suddenly take over as your children’s teacher. Do not worry — they are going to learn just fine with you in charge. No doubt, his year is full of anxiety, curiosity, it is easy to get overwhelmed with panic, but we all must maintain a level of calm and certainty for our children. With love, empathy, and compassion we will get us through this pandemic, and I am sure with time and patience together we can learn and grow as a strong community. I will try to make the classes more interesting, engaging, interactive as well as easier, so that each child understands and enjoys them. I hope to make this academic year, an educational as well as a fun-filled year for my scholars.*

*Throughout the year, it is important to have a strong parent-teacher relationship. If at any time you have any questions or concerns, please contact me. You can email me at (devika.bhalla@tusd1.org), call me at (5203306301) or post a message in teams. Also, please check the posts on Microsoft Teams daily for any new announcements, conversations, homework assignments as well as important updates. I update my post as much as possible with reminders, news, homework, and other information that might be helpful.*

*I am thrilled to be starting on this year’s journey with your children! I look forward to watching them learn, grow, and have a fantastic time in 8thgrade!*

 *I cannot wait to see my scholars when school opens.*

*Yours Sincerely,*

Devika Bhalla