



**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
DEPENDENTS SCHOOLS
MEDITERRANEAN DISTRICT
LAJES UNIT SCHOOL**



I am thrilled to have been selected as the new Lajes Unit School Principal and am excited to take the lead of a school with a great reputation for being student-centered and collegial. This year marks my 20th year with DoDEA. My teaching career began in 1992 at Nile C. Kinnick High School (Yokosuka, Japan) and she continued with transfers to Naples Middle/High School (Italy), Lajes Middle/High School and then Giessen Middle/High School (Germany). I began my administrative career as Assistant Principal of Heidelberg High School (2005-2008) in Germany and then assumed my duties as Principal of Vicenza Middle/High School on August 20, 2008. I value each one of my assignments as learning experiences and new adventures.

I hold a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education from the University of New Orleans and a Master of Arts degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Michigan State University—all accomplished while serving as a military spouse and a mother. I am a lifelong learner; so my goal is for all students to gain the skills necessary to be successful in all avenues they may take in life. I am a passionate educator with high expectations for all students and teachers—as well as for myself. At the core of this commitment, my educational priorities include:

- Promoting high student achievement by providing a wide-range of courses to meet the needs of our students. The “true” school concept is to prepare each student for each phase of his/her educational experience. Students need to have skills to enter the work force, military service, or a higher educational experience.
- Fostering a positive relationships with school stakeholders to build a healthy school environment, enacting change, promoting professional development, progressing towards school improvement, and actualizing a shared, committed vision of what education should and can be.

On a personal note, I enjoy traveling, long walks, and spending time with family and friends. My husband OSCM (SW) Richard J. Kenney, USN retired, also will accompany me on this assignment. I believe I learned the value and importance of education by being part of a tight family, which encouraged and nurtured personal growth.

I am eager to begin my tenure at Lajes Unit School, and I would like to extend a warm greeting to my new faculty, students, and families there. I readily accept the challenge to become an integral partner with the school community, continue the promotion of a culture of excellence, and look forward to meeting everyone in the coming days.

Arrivederci, Vicenza, Olá para a bela ilha da Terceira!

Lauri Kenney