



Teachers with Passion: Pamela Harris-Hawthorne



If you've been in the hallways of Madison-Carver Academy (MCA), you've probably talked to Mrs. Harris-Hawthorne. She's known as "Mrs. HH" and she's a seriously enthusiastic fifth grade English Language Arts and Writing teacher that's been with Cornerstone Schools for four years.

Exactly how enthusiastic is Harris-Hawthorne? Her passion for teaching goes back to her childhood.

"In my neighborhood on the East side of Detroit, I would gather all the children in the backyard and 'play' school. I was very serious about it. I asked our neighbors, 'If I keep the kids off your grass, will you supply me with materials for my class?'"

"They really didn't like kids running on the grass, so they did. They provided me with supplies and lunch. I taught several subjects, including reading, math, social studies and recess. I enjoyed it so much and my students learned. I was a natural born teacher!"

Bringing Lessons to Life

Harris-Hawthorne continues to demonstrate her passion for teaching by collaborating with her Cornerstone team mates - sharing ideas, lesson plans and successes with fellow teachers. When MCA students were studying the Constitution and Bill of Rights, she worked with the fifth grade team to apply for a grant that allowed the classes to learn in a blended (and really fun) way. The scholars designed, built and produced a 3D lobby display of James Madison and Thomas Paine, two of our country's Founding Fathers, discussing the Bill of Rights. As a result of Harris-Hawthorne's efforts, the story of these important government documents was brought to life.

"I enjoy teaching because I love watching the light bulbs go off every day when students really get something that they didn't understand before. We have so many light bulbs going off in my classroom, we don't need the lights on!" she laughs.

What Advice Would She Give to Someone Considering Cornerstone?

If another teacher outside of Cornerstone Schools was considering joining the team, Harris-Hawthorne would advise, "Come on over! You will love teaching at Cornerstone for several reasons. We're a team. We're all different but we work well together. We all love each other. We collaborate. We like to learn from each other. And we're there for each other, whether that's during school hours or on our own time. We are a family!"

Interested in teaching at Cornerstone?

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