

Spotlight On: Amber Ferrell

Harriet Tubman Elementary School | Early Childhood Education | Five Years in Education



Amber describes her teaching style as nurturing, engaging, and inclusive.

“I’m passionate about giving back and creating the same supportive and engaging learning experiences for my students that influenced my own educational journey.”

What inspired you to pursue a career as a teacher?

“I was inspired to teach through my work in child care, where I saw how important positive interactions and early learning experiences are for children. That experience led me to pursue a career in education, and over the past years, I’ve continued to grow professionally by developing engaging lessons and supporting a diverse range of learners.”

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

“My favorite thing about teaching is seeing the excitement on students’ faces when they are engaged and eager to learn. Those moments remind me why I chose this profession.”

What draws you to teaching in the District?

“As someone who grew up in the District and attended DCPS, I feel a strong connection to this community. I’m passionate about giving back and creating the same supportive and engaging learning experiences for my students that influenced my own educational journey.”

“Teachers are not only delivering instruction, but also serving as advocates, mentors, and support systems for their students and family every day.”



How has the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program impacted you?

“The OSSE Apprenticeship has had a significant impact on me by providing continued support throughout my development as an educator. It strengthened my collaboration with my cooperating teacher, allowing me to learn through real classroom experiences and feedback. Additionally, the opportunity to earn my degree debt-free has relieved financial stress and allowed me to fully

focus on growing as an effective teacher.”

What do you wish more people knew about teachers in the District?

“I wish more people knew how much heart, dedication, and flexibility teachers in the District bring to their work. Teachers are not only delivering instruction, but also serving as advocates, mentors, and support systems for their students and families every day.”

What are you most looking forward to as a new lead teacher?

“As a new lead teacher, I’m most looking forward to creating and leading my own classroom community. I’m excited to build strong relationships with my students, design engaging lessons, and create a nurturing, inclusive environment where all students feel supported and motivated to learn.”

What would you say to someone who is thinking of applying for the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program?

“I would encourage them to apply and share that the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program changed my life. It gave me hands-on experience, supportive coaching, and the confidence to grow into an effective educator, all while earning my degree debt-free.”

For more information about the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program, please visit osse.dc.gov/page/osse-apprenticeship-teaching.