

Spotlight On: Ana De Souza

Harriet Tubman Elementary School | Elementary Education | 2 Years in Education



Ana describes her teaching style as nurturing, humanized, and empowering.

“My goal is to equip my students with the strategies of critical thinking, ensuring they become the ones who make the world a better place.”

What inspired you to pursue a career as a teacher?

“The classroom is my foundation for change. My goal is to equip my students with the strategies of critical thinking, ensuring they become the ones who make the world a better place.”

What is your favorite thing about teaching?

“My favorite thing about teaching is the daily exchange of experiences in the classroom. The students are constant sources of learning; they teach me how to be more understanding, more hopeful, and, ultimately, a better human being. They inspire my belief in a better future and provide a deep sense of purpose in my work.”

“Our teachers are intentional about creating safe, inclusive communities and building strong relationships with students and families.”



How has the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program impacted you?

“The OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program changed my life for the better. For one, it has made achieving my degree financially possible; without this support, the high cost of tuition would have kept this dream out of reach. Beyond the financial aspect, I am gaining the knowledge and confidence through my coursework to become a more effective educator and a stronger advocate for students like me—those with the drive to succeed but not the financial means.”

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

“Our teachers are intentional about creating safe, inclusive communities and building strong relationships with students and their families. This approach is rooted in our belief that students learn best when they feel valued, supported, and have a strong sense of belonging.”

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

“This program is designed for people who are passionate about teaching and advocating for our community. If you have a hunger for knowledge and a desire to share it, this is your chance—don’t miss out on achieving dreams!”

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