

## Spotlight On: Ebony Pennant

Bancroft Elementary School | Elementary Education | 5 Years in Education



*Ebony describes her teaching style as creative, determined, and productive.*

**“I wish that people knew how hard we work, and more importantly, how much we care.”**

### **What inspired you to pursue a career as a teacher?**

I believe that teaching is an invaluable skill—one that requires dedication, creativity, and resilience. It is an amazing profession, but not an easy one, and I have always had a passion for taking on challenging tasks. Growing up, one teacher in particular inspired me—Ms. Chambliss, my sixth-grade history teacher. She was my first African American teacher, and she made me fall in love with the subject. More importantly, she helped me believe that I was capable of achieving anything. Her influence shaped my perspective on education and fueled my desire to become a teacher myself. Today, I find immense joy in watching my students grow, learn, and develop confidence in themselves. Seeing their progress each day is deeply rewarding, and it reinforces my commitment to this profession.

### **What is your favorite thing about teaching?**

My favorite part of teaching is seeing students light up when they grasp new concepts. The moment of realization—their expressions shifting as things finally make sense—is priceless. For example, when we read *The Good Seed*, a student used their inferencing skills to determine what happened to the main character. Seeing them connect ideas and think critically makes teaching incredibly rewarding.

**“I believe that teaching is an invaluable skill—one that requires dedication, creativity, and resilience.”**



**How has the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program impacted you?**

Before discovering the program, I felt stuck. I deeply wanted to attend college but wasn't sure how to make it happen. In the meantime, I dedicated myself to working hard at my job, as I firmly believe in the value of a strong work ethic, no matter the task. Hard work has always been important to me, and when I came across this program, it felt like a sign—a reminder that my efforts were not in vain. In that moment, I truly believe that a higher power was affirming that perseverance and determination eventually lead to success. This program has not only opened doors for me academically, but it has also reinforced my belief that hard work and dedication will always lead to meaningful opportunities.

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

Through long hours, unwavering dedication, and a deep love for their craft, teachers in the District prove every day that education is not just about knowledge—it's about building strength, character, and opportunity.

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

If you've ever felt the pull toward teaching—toward making a real impact in students' lives—this program is something you won't regret. It's not just about learning how to teach; it's about seeing education from the inside out, gaining confidence, and growing in ways you didn't expect. For me, it's been eye-opening. It's given me perspective, helped me find my voice, and connected me with incredible educators who share the same passion. Seeing others, like the Bancroft aide, succeed in it makes it even more meaningful. If you're thinking about it, take the leap—you have so much to gain.

*For more information about the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program, please visit [osse.dc.gov/page/osse-apprenticeship-teaching](https://osse.dc.gov/page/osse-apprenticeship-teaching).*