

## Spotlight On: Vaneisha Mintz

John Francis Educational Campus | Special Education | 11 Years in Education



*Vaneisha describes her teaching style as devoted, patient, and supportive.*

**“I’ve always found deep meaning in supporting others as they discover their strengths, overcome challenges, and reach new levels of confidence.”**

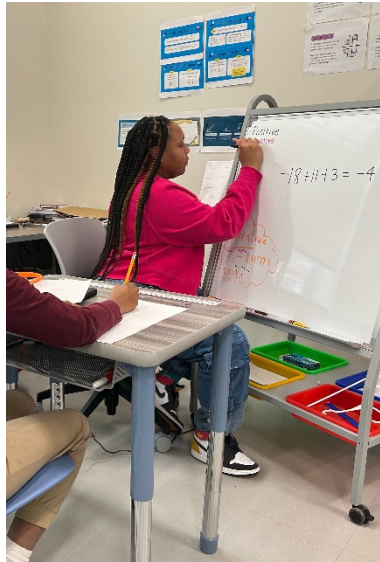
### **What inspired you to pursue a career as a teacher?**

“I was inspired to pursue a career as a teacher because, throughout my life, each milestone has given me the opportunity to witness the uniqueness in every individual, including my own child. Being able to see how differently people learn, grow, and shine made me realize how powerful it is to be part of someone’s development. I’ve always found deep meaning in supporting others as they discover their strengths, overcome challenges, and reach new levels of confidence. Becoming a teacher allows me to not only celebrate their uniqueness, but also be a part of each student’s growth, step by step.”

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

“My favorite thing about teaching is having the opportunity to support and witness students’ growth. I value being able to guide them as they develop their unique strengths, gain confidence, and overcome challenges. Being part of that journey and watching students progress in their own individual ways is the most meaningful and rewarding aspect of teaching for me.”

**“There are so many educators making significant contributions who deserve acknowledgment. Their resilience, passion, and daily impact deserve to be seen and celebrated.”**



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

“The OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program has impacted me by challenging me in meaningful and important ways. Balancing school, coaching soccer, and being a mother to my wonderful daughter requires dedication and discipline. This program has pushed me to strengthen my sense of responsibility, improve my time-management skills, and think more creatively when facing challenges. Overall, it has helped me grow both personally and professionally, and it has prepared me to be more confident and effective in my role as an educator.”

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

“As a paraprofessional, I wish more people understood how dedicated and hardworking teachers in the District truly are. Many teachers are constantly balancing large class sizes, diverse learning needs, and limited resources, while also being pulled into other classrooms to support wherever they are needed. Despite these challenges, they remain committed to creating safe, supportive, and engaging learning environments for every student.

I also wish people recognized that many teachers, especially those who haven’t been in the system for decades, often do not receive monthly or yearly spotlights that veteran general education teachers receive. There are so many educators making significant contributions who deserve acknowledgment. Their resilience, passion, and daily impact deserve to be seen and celebrated.”

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

“If someone is thinking about applying for the OSSE Apprenticeship in Teaching program, I would tell them to go for it. This program provides hands-on experience, meaningful support, and real opportunities to grow as an educator. It challenges you in the best ways, helping you strengthen your time-management skills, build confidence in the classroom, and develop practical strategies you can use every day.

It's not always easy, especially if you're balancing school, work, and personal responsibilities, but the growth you experience makes it worth it. If you're passionate about education and committed to making a difference, this program will truly prepare you for the next step in your teaching journey.”

*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).*