

Meet the ECS Teachers

Pre-School Staff



My name is Penny Brown and I am a new K-3 teacher. I have been at ECS for seven years. I began as a Kindergarten Teacher Assistant, then served as a Teacher Assistant for 3rd and 1st grades. I have received my credentials in Early Childhood Education and am always willing to work unto the Lord. I have a servant's heart and am willing to do whatever it takes help your child grow even more.



My name is Briana Holmes, and I am blessed to be one of the K3 teachers! This is my 8th year teaching, and my second year at Excellence. I have my Preschool Certification from the State of Maryland and am currently pursuing my Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Maryland University College. I enjoy working with children and plan to "...do it heartily, as to the Lord" Colossians 3:23. Outside of teaching, I enjoy reading and spending time with my daughter. Everything for HIS glory!



My name is Keeaunda Winston and I am one of the Pre-K 4 teachers. I received my Bachelor's Degree in Early Childhood Education from James Madison University. I have a wide range of educational experience working with children from infancy through High school for the past eighteen years. In 2001, I began my career in Christian education working as an Assistant Preschool Teacher and decided to make early learning my life's work because I believe a child's education is the most valuable thing in the world. I have a great love and passion for working with children. I am dedicated to the social and emotional development of each child and I have made it my goal to make sure that each child receives the best care and love that they all deserve. I began working at ECS in 2018 and am very happy to be part of the ECS family. We are a great team with an incredible passion for each individual child. I feel very proud and blessed to be part of such a great group of teachers and administrators.

K4 Teacher – Tameka Melvin

My name is Tameka Melvin and I am absolutely honored to be one of your Pre-K4 teachers. I grew up in the DMV area until I got married and travelled to many different counties with my husband of 22 years. I graduated from Chatham Hall Pep School in VA, attended Strayer University in business management / Education. I also operated a very successful family childcare in Upper Marlboro Maryland for over 10 years and during that time, I attended Prince George's Community College where I received my credentials in Early Childcare Development. I am so proud to be part of Excellence Christian School family and I am so excited to start learning new life skills and engaging in many fun learning activities with you and your family.

Elementary School Staff



My name is Anita Ramalingam and I been teaching for over 25 years. I am currently on of the Kindergarten Techers and a graduate of Duke Ellington School of The Arts and Trinity University in Washington D.C. I received my Masters degree from Ashford University as a Reading Specialist. I have been working for 8 years as the Kindergarten Teacher at Excellence Christian school and am also CEO of Ramalingam Productions Performing Arts Studio. My husband and I met in Singapore over 33 years ago and have travelled to several countries under Youth With A Mission. I have a passion for children, missions and the arts and my philosophy is that 'Every moment is a teachable moment' and that 'Learning can be fun'!



My name is Rev. Karen L. Miller and I currently serve as one of the Kindergarten teachers. This is my 39th year of teaching and I have a passion and love for helping to shape and develop what God has placed in our students. I graduated from Bennett College and from there pursued a teaching career. I have worked at various public and private schools before landing here at Excellence Christian School, “Home of the Eagles.” I have been here for 9 years. I am currently a student at Wesley Theological Seminary and will be graduating in May 2019!



My name is Brenda Byrd Lloyd and I am one of the 1st grade teachers here at ECS. I have served as an Educator for a number of years. I have received my Licensing/Certifications in the following areas: Regular Education, Special Education, English Language Arts Specialist, Literacy Coach and U. S. Geography Consultant. I believe that every learner is created with gifts and talents which must be realized and developed in order that he/she may fulfill his purpose in our Global Society. I desire to be remembered thusly: "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses, let us lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and run with patience the race that is set before us....." Hebrews 12:1



My name is Jacqueline Thompson and I am one of the new 1st grade teachers here at ECS. I have over 35 years of experience in training and education. Prior to working in elementary education, I worked at the Smithsonian Institution in Information Technology Training and Help Desk support. I have always had a passion for teaching young children and God gave me the opportunity to transition into Christian education where I served for over 19 years. I earned a Bachelor's of Administration degree in Political Science from Barat College in Lake Forest, Illinois and my life verse is "Oh, taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who trusts in Him."



My name is Frederica Dyer and I have been the 2nd grade teacher here at ECS since 2003. I received my teaching certification from Towson University. There is special joy that comes from being a vessel to help children learn. Students' natural wonder makes *"Everyday an exciting day to learn something new!"* When my students leave the 2nd grade nest, I hope I've encouraged them to fly with a lifelong love for learning and reading, just as my 1st grade teacher did for me many years ago. When I am not in the classroom, I enjoy spending time with my family, quilting, crafting, baking, and serving in my church's Children's Ministry.



My name is Renarda Campbell and I have been teaching 3rd grade at ECS for the past 10 years. I attended Delaware State University and earned a B.S. degree in Marketing in 1994. I also attended St. Joseph's University and earned a Master of Science degree in Elementary Education in 2001. I have been teaching now for 18 years in both the public and private school sector. In 2013, I received an Award for Teacher of the Year. I have always had a passion for teaching and working with children. I have proudly acquired influences from a line of educators in my family. It has been a rewarding experience for me to have a positive impact on students' education. Working at ECS has enhanced my teaching and I truly enjoy teaching students about the love of God.



My name is Jasmine M. Johnson and I currently serve as the 4th Grade Teacher. I have been teaching at ECS since 2014 both as an Upper School Math and Science Teacher and Elementary School Teacher. I hold an undergraduate degree from the University of Maryland, College Park, Master's degree from Harvard University, and I am currently pursuing a second Master's degree from Loyola University Maryland, Baltimore, MD. I have two daughters who are both students of ECS.

Middle School Staff



My name is Bernadette Concepcion and I currently serve as the Middle School Science Teacher. I have been teaching for 30 years and 16 of those years have been here at ECS. I received my Bachelor's degree from Holy Angel University in the Philippines, and I believe that teaching is not only a job, but a calling mandated by God for me to fulfill.



My name is Gretel Coverdale and I am the Middle School English Teacher. I am originally from Pennsylvania and graduated from Shippensburg University in Shippensburg, PA, with a Bachelor's degree in English with a Secondary Education Certification. I have been teaching for 10 years, the last 8 of which have been here at ECS. I received the Teacher of the Year Award for the 2012-2013 school year and the Teacher of the Quarter Award in May of 2017. As an English teacher, it is my calling and privilege to teach students in fifth through eighth grades reading, literature, writing, grammar, spelling, and vocabulary. I have a passion to ensure that our Upper School students receive the reading and writing skills that they will need to successfully enter high school and beyond. I also teach Biblical concepts through the literature we read and also in Bible class. It is a joy for me to see students blossoming as readers and writers as well as children of God. I am truly blessed and privileged to be part of the ECS family.



My name is Danielle Mangrum. I currently teach Middle School Social Studies and serve as the Cheerleading Coach at Excellence. I came to ECS in the 3rd grade when the school first opened in 2002. I graduated as salutatorian of the first 12th grade class at ECS. After high school, I received my Bachelor's degree in Psychology and Sociology degree from Spelman College and graduated with honors. I have taught for 3 years: 1 year in Indianapolis, Indiana and 2 years at ECS. My favorite historical interests include African and Asian civilizations. I hope that God blesses me with the opportunity to teach your child and I look forward to partnering with you this school year.



My name is Shaina Parker. I currently teach Middle School Math and this is my 5th year at ECS. I have been teaching for over 10 years in Washington DC and Maryland. I received my Bachelor's degree from the University of Maryland, College Park and my Master's of Divinity from Calvary Bible College. I am an ordained minister and founder Daughters of Esther Inc. and I also I have two daughters who attend Excellence Christian School.



My name is Rev. Katrina Wallace and I currently serve as the 5th & 7th Grade Bible Teacher as well as the Guidance Counselor. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Bowie State University with a B.S. degree in Psychology. I am currently attending The Catholic University where I am pursuing my Masters in Clinical Social Work. I am an ASCI Certified Bible Teacher with 9 years of experience teaching both middle and high students as well as a certified Effective Parenting Trainer. I have served at ECS for the past 10 years, focusing on a holistic approach to child development. My emphasis is on teaching the whole child academically, socially, emotionally, career wise and spiritually.

Creative Arts Staff



My name is Andres Henao and I have been teaching Spanish for 8 years. I have been teaching at ECS for the past three years. I am also an instructor/coach for The Global Language Network GLN, in Washington, D.C. I received my Bachelor's degree from the Universidad de Medellin (Colombia) and my Masters degrees from the Universidad Autonoma de Barcelona (Spain) and the Maryland Theological Seminary in Religious Education. I enjoy teaching students and have a desire for them to learn the Spanish language and culture.



My name is Pernell Spence and I have been the Music Teacher here at ECS for the past 10 years. I graduated from DuVal Senior High School and furthered my studies in business and music at Bowie State University. I have served in music ministry for over 20 years and have over 15 years of experience in music education. I am a licensed minister and am currently pursuing my degree in Biblical Studies and Pastoral Ministry at Lancaster Bible College. I am passionate about educating students in music arts and I enjoy contributing to the development of their musical gifts and talents.



My name is Sherry Farmer I have worked with children for over 15 years. This is my third year teaching Art at Excellence Christian School. I graduated Magna Cum Laude from Ashford University in 2015 and I am currently pursuing my Master's Degree in Reading and Literacy from Walden University. I have a passion for the Arts and am excited to be a part of your student's creative experiences and artistic growth.

Physical Education Teacher – Theodore Horton

My name is Theodore Horton and I am 2012 graduate of Lincoln University (PA) where I received a football scholarship during my tenure. Prior to ECS, I taught at Kelly Miller Middle School as a Physical Education teacher, where I introduced archery to the curriculum. I have been teaching for 6 years and am passionate about physical education, sports and engaging young people not only in athletics and sports, but also in social emotional learning to help build physically and emotionally strong learners.

Teacher Assistants



My name is Briana Jackson and this is my first year at ECS as a Teacher Assistant. I've been working with elementary students for 4 years with the National Park and Planning Commission. In 2012, I graduated from Charles Herbert Flowers High School and later enrolled in the Mass Communications and Early Childhood Development Program at Prince Georges Community College, and University of the District of Columbia. I am also the soccer coach for ECS and I'm thrilled to be part of the team this school year and for years to come!



My name is LaNice Kibler. I am from New York City and graduated from Claflin University in Orangeburg, South Carolina. I earned a Bachelors degree in Education of Human Performance Recreation. I have been working in the educational field for 8 years. This is my first year at ECS as a Teacher Assistant and I look forward to working with the students and all the fun activities that ECS has to offer.



My name is Jarrell Pittman and I currently serve as a Kindergarten Teacher Assistant. I am also one of the leaders of our Loud and Clear student ministry and serve on the basketball and flag football coaching staff. I have been at ECS since 2015 and have a passion for child development and performing arts. I received my Bachelor's degree in Journalism and Mass Communications from North Carolina A&T University. I have also started the Shooting Starts Project, an interactive after-school program, where kids can gain technical skills in media while learning self-identity and creating their own narrative.



My name is Devona Thornton and I am a graduate of South Carolina State University. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Social Work. This is my second year at ECS, and I currently serve as a Kindergarten Teacher Assistant and I am also one of the Cheerleading Coaches. My biggest goal in life is to be a role model by giving back my knowledge of what I have been taught and pass it on to the next generation. My favorite scripture is Philippians 4:13 "I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me" This scripture is the basis for my belief and how I live my life.



My name is Amanda Twyman and I have served as a Teacher Assistant at ECS for five years. I truly enjoy the environment and working with the staff here. I first discovered my passion of working with children at an early age. I attend Mt. Calvary Baptist Church in Lanham, MD, where I sing on the praise team and serve as a young adult director. I also mentor high school girls. The love I have for young people is truly heartfelt.