



Janell Phillips- Founding Asst. Principal

Janell Phillips has worked in the field of education for over 15 years. She understood the call on her life at a young age, as did many others who were attracted by her drive to promote academic excellence, cultural diversity, and good citizenship. At the early age of 17 years old, she received scholarships from the Monterey Bay Teachers Association and NAACP to pursue her dream of becoming an educator. Since then, she has dedicated her life to educating young people from all walks of life.

Her initial assignment began in 2002 as a volunteer for her local church as the Children's Church Director. It was here that she taught kids ages 5-15 the importance of developing character and a sense of moral obligation to serving the community in which they lived. During this time, many of the young people under her leadership flourished. They learned to use their gifts of singing, dance, acting, and more to spread messages of love and hope during church sponsored events. While working on her degree to become a teacher, it was during this time that Janell discovered the importance of the arts in the lives of young people.

In 2006, Janell Phillips received her B.A. in Liberal Studies from California State University, San Bernardino and she immediately went to work for the Moreno Valley Unified School District. As an English teacher serving students at the middle school level, Janell soon discovered a huge problem within the public school system. Many Hispanics, African-Americans, students in foster care, and those with socio-economic disadvantaged backgrounds, were experiencing something known as the underachievement gap. Her passion for equity and student success has since put her on a mission to discover ways of appealing to at risk youth.

Throughout her years as an educator within the school district, Ms. Phillips has lead the Multi-Cultural Committee, School Site Safety Committee, and has served as a club advisor to hundreds of African American students. Her service as co-founder to the Young Black Achievers club caused such a drastic increase in California standardized test scores among students who were once underachieving, that it sparked great notoriety. Soon, the entire school district decided to adopt and implement the Junior Black Achievers club at every middle school site. Since then, Janell Phillips has taken on several other leadership roles to become a change agent for all students.

In 2015, she graduated from National University with her Masters of Science in Educational Administration. At present, she leads Student Success Teams (SST's) at her school to work with students whose lives are being affected by broken homes or drugs. She is also working with other teachers and administrators from the Northern, Southern, and Central regions of California on a program called Project Read to help English Learners and underperforming students improve their literacy. When it comes to the youth of today, Janell Phillips believes that "You have to reach them before you can teach them."

Currently, Ms. Phillips resides in Moreno Valley with her three children, ages 6, 8, and 13. She aims to teach young people how to be culturally responsive in the 21st Century, while understanding their voice, freedoms, and obligations to society. This hard working mother and educator endeavors to impact as many lives possible. It is her goal to drive a community of parents and professionals with assisting today's youth in overcoming their obstacles, achieving their goals, and reaching their full potential.