

MEET OUR NEW VICE PRINCIPAL



Meet Chantel Bailey-Callender

A career Kindergarten teacher, Mrs. Bailey-Callender has served Oakwood Adventist Academy (OAA) faithfully for the last 5 years. Over the years, parents have interacted with Mrs. Bailey-Callender as a teacher, and she has frequently received rave reviews for her work in the classroom. She was honored as OAA Teacher of the Year in the 2015-2016 school year. That same year, Mr. Madrid saw a leadership spark in her, and he made her the leader of the K-3 Professional Learning Community (PLC). She has blossomed in that leadership role and, along with Mrs. LaTisha Harrell who leads the 4-6 PLC, runs one of the most effective PLCs on campus.

Mrs. Bailey-Callender's influence on campus is widespread and palpable. She has served on the Spiritual Life committee for two years, helping to improve the spiritual atmosphere at the elementary school both in and out of weekly chapel services. She has organized and executed the Kindergarten graduation every year, somehow finding a way to put on a mini musical with her students with limited resources. Her three

children even attend the school: Christopher is entering the 6th grade, and twins Bailey and Brooke are entering the 4th grade. Mrs. Bailey-Callender has repeatedly shown that she is well versed in the systems and procedures of OAA, that she is an instructional leader among her fellow teachers, and that she has OAA fully embedded in her DNA.

But, if you've been paying attention, you probably knew all that already. What you may not have known is that she met her husband Ian when they were college students at Oakwood, and they've been together for over 19 years in total, 12 of those years as a married couple. You may not know that she has 2 education degrees: a bachelor's in Elementary Education and a master's in Special Education with a concentration in Collaborative Teaching, or that she is currently enrolled in an administration certification program through George Washington University. You may not know that she enjoys composing music, reading self-help books and the writings of E.G. White, and spending time with her family in her free time. If you have had a conversation with Mrs. Bailey-Callender, you probably know that she is a native New Yorker, born and raised on Long Island; what you may not know is that when she needs to relax, she often does yard work, pulling weeds and planting flowers around her home.

Mrs. Bailey-Callender believes strongly in the vision and mission of the school, and she is here to help promote it in any way she can. She has seen God use small things in her past to help prepare her for this moment. She has been in leadership, both directly and indirectly, in her home, her church, and her school for years. When she first got to OAA, she was given a class with a large number of students. To help bring balance to the student-teacher ratio, Mrs. Bailey-Callender's class also had 2 adult teacher aides. It was up to Mrs. Bailey-Callender to coordinate, organize, and delegate tasks to the aides in order to maximize the effectiveness of the instructional team in that classroom. When she took a leadership role in OAA Chapel services, she had to learn quickly how to stand before the students, a skill set that she has also developed through her work as Children's Choir Director and Assistant Children's Ministry Leader at Madison Mission SDA Church. In all the things she has done, Mrs. Bailey-Callender can see how God was using those activities to prepare her to lead.

Above all, Mrs. Bailey-Callender prays that her time as Vice Principal of OAA is marked by a high level of student growth. She wants every class to achieve a Student Growth Percentile at 55 or higher on both the STAR Math and STAR Reading tests. After all, she has stated, "I have not accepted this position for self-gain. The true meaning of me doing this is a desire to be used by God in His work, to be part of a team that takes His school to heights we have yet to imagine."

The next time you see Chantel Bailey-Callender, congratulate her on her promotion, and let her know that she has your support and your prayers. Her goals are lofty, but she is a member of a strong team, and she is committed to remaining connected to God in executing His plan for her life, her family, and her school.

