

Carissa Lacy, a native of White Hall, Arkansas. She received her formal education in the White Hall School District, graduating in May of 1994. A month after her graduation, she enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, graduating Magna Cum Laude with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education in 1997. Carissa continued her educational pursuits by enrolling in graduate school at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock, graduating with a Masters of Science in School Counseling in 1999. From this accomplishment, certification in Building and District Leadership was attained at the University of Central Arkansas in 2001.

Choosing the field of education as a career didn't afford Carissa the opportunity to blaze a new trail in history as she followed the path that many in her family had already blazed. Her grandmother and two aunts devoted over 30 years to the field of education. Her mother is currently in her 50th year in this field. In addition to them her sister, an uncle, 2 aunts, and 3 cousins are also educators. Carissa, did however, blaze her own trail by becoming the first building level administrator in her family.

Carissa began her teaching career in the Pine Bluff School District in August of 1997. She was fortunate to gain a position in the Little Rock School District two years later as a Guidance Counselor. Five years after that stint, Carissa found her niche in administration and was blessed to be hired as a Building Principal in the Osceola School District. Currently, Carissa is the principal at Marion Middle School.

In her 20 years in the Educational field, Carissa has touched many lives and built lasting relationships with her students. Her hope is that all of her students whether past or current, will always value what an education can do to enhance their lives. As Nelson Mandela stated, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."

Carissa is member of the St. Paul Baptist Church, Memphis, TN. In addition to her church affiliation, she is also a member of the West Memphis Area Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. Carissa serves as the Arkansas Social Action Coordinator for Delta Sigma Theta, Inc. She is the joyful mother of Kacen Joeseeph Parham, bonded sister to JoVita Lacy, and the blessed daughter of Joe and Betty Lacy.

When Carissa is not working or being a dutiful mother to Kacen, she enjoys traveling and attending concerts/musicals. Carissa most recently enjoyed a visit to Chicago to view the musical Hamilton. Her other notable musical favorites include The Lion King,

Wicked, Color Purple, Dreamgirls, Motown, and the Bodyguard. Carissa's most memorable concert experience was seeing Prince perform at the Pyramid.

Carissa is excited about her new assignment at the Visual and Performing Arts Magnet School as she feels she can bring lots of energy and excitement to this environment.