

Rafael Smith is a native of Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He received his formal education in the Watson Chapel School District, graduating in May of 1990. While at Watson Chapel he was a three-year letterman in basketball and baseball, earning All-Conference in basketball and was a member WCHS first state title in baseball. Shortly after, he enrolled at the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff where he majored in Biology with a minor in Chemistry. He was also a four-year letterman in basketball. Rafael continued his education at Southern Nazarene University where he obtained a Masters in Management in 2000. From there, he obtained another Masters in Ed Leadership from Christian Brothers University.

Rafael began his educational career in 1997 at the age of twenty-five in the Kansas City School District. Shortly after, he tried his hand in retail management for four years, but the love for education came calling and he returned to the field. His first stint, after retail was at Tulsa Community College where he taught Anatomy & Physiology and Biology. During this time he also obtained an adjunct position at Platt College where he taught Medical Terminology and Anatomy & Physiology. He continued teaching at the collegiate level until his faith took him to the K-12 sector in Memphis, TN. While in Memphis, he taught 7th and 8th grade Science (Memphis Academy of Science and Engineering and Lowrance Middle) and progressed to become a Dean of Students. Currently, Rafael is in the Marion School District where he is the Asst. Principal at the middle school.

Rafael is an active member of Perfecting Love Community Church in Memphis, TN. In addition to his church affiliation, he is a member of the West Memphis/Marion Alumnae Chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi. He is the husband of the lovely Shavita Smith and proud father of Jamarius, Kristyn, Justin, and Myles. He is also the happy "Paw Paw" of Jada, Alani, and Jayce.

In his 18 years in education, Rafael has touched many lives and has built eternal relationships. His nightly prayer is for the success and safety of all children. His greatest moment in education came when the first class he taught graduated. The Valedictorian and Salutatorian mentioned him in their speech and spoke how he had touched their lives and how they loved his class. He continues to touch lives, for his endeavor is equated with the words of Abraham Lincoln, "Give me six hours to chop down a tree and I will spend the first four sharpening the ax." Rafael is very excited to get started at the Marion Magnet for Math Science and Technology where he can help to motivate, inspire and promote the excellence that dwells within the students.