

Dorchester County –Choptank Elementary School
Crystal Owens, Grade 3

Crystal Owens, a third grade teacher in Dorchester County has sixteen years of teaching experience at the elementary school level. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Salisbury University (2002), a Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology from Washington College (1996), and a Master of Science degree in Psychology from University of Baltimore (1998). Crystal volunteers her time to serve on school committees, attend conferences, and mentor candidates pursuing certification. She was Teacher of the Year in Dorchester County from 2010-2011. Crystal believes that the greatest gift she can give to her students is a love for learning.

Crystal L. Owens

CAREER OBJECTIVE

Elementary Teacher with 16+ years of experience working directly with students, administrators, staff, and families. Possesses impeccable written and verbal communication skills and excellent interpersonal skills.

CORE COMPETENCIES

- ♦ Proficient in Data Analysis
- ♦ Collaborative Planner
- ♦ Detailed and Organized
- ♦ Knowledge of CCSS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Choptank Elementary, Cambridge, MD

Teacher, (First, Second, and Third Grades) - 2007 - present

Professional Nanny, Exton, PA

Child Care, (3 children) - 2005 - 2007

Choptank Elementary, Cambridge, MD

Teacher, (Second Grade) - 2002 - 2005

EDUCATION

SALISBURY UNIVERSITY, Salisbury, MD

Bachelor of Science, May 2002

- ♦ Elementary Education

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE, Baltimore, MD

Master of Science, May 1998

- ♦ Psychology

WASHINGTON COLLEGE, Chestertown, MD

Bachelor of Arts, May 1996

- ♦ Psychology

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

- ♦ Teacher of the Year - Dorchester County (2010-2011)
- ♦ Current Faculty Council Chair at Choptank Elementary School and Discipline Committee Representative
- ♦ Received a mini grant from SU for PD in Reading (How Interns Can Impact the Classroom, 2009)
- ♦ Served as cooperating teacher for numerous student candidates from SU
- ♦ Former Chair of Choptank Elementary Wellness Committee and Former Girl Scout Troop Leader
- ♦ Served as a Social Liaison between schools and Board of Education
- ♦ Participated in the Family Involvement Policy Advisory Committee and Elementary Task Force

Personal Statement:

If I was selected for the Teacher Member on the State Board of Education it would truly be an honor to represent Maryland's teachers and students. If given the opportunity to be a State Board of Education Member I would advocate for the ongoing improvement of Maryland's educational system by promoting safe, healthy, and engaged classrooms that foster teaching and learning.

Teachers are ambassadors of student learning. We must daily advocate for our students by empowering them, encouraging them, and never giving up on them. I work hard to achieve this every day in my classroom. Therefore, it seems fitting that I desire to pursue this at the state level where policy change can come to fruition.

I believe I would bring many exceptional qualities to the Board meetings. First and foremost, I am committed to providing a quality education for each child. I view education as an indispensable part of our society. Along with parents, teachers mold and shape our children to become self-sufficient, self-motivated, and productive citizens. Every member in a community has a duty to contribute to their society by sharing their own strengths and being active responsible participants. Each day I help encourage positive attitudes in my students and arm them with the knowledge and skills that will help them reach their potential. All students should have access to a world class educational system that prepares them for a successful life while fostering their physical, mental, social, and emotional well-being.

Just as I encourage my students to take ownership of their learning, I welcome the opportunity to be accountable for the education of not only my students but all students in the state of Maryland. Accountability in the teaching profession is a necessity. Early on, teachers are required to demonstrate that they have the tools necessary to begin a career in teaching. While teachers themselves are responsible for being effective, it is also the responsibility of the teaching community to help each other achieve this goal. As a profession we must all strive to help novice and seasoned teachers alike grow and cultivate best teaching practices.

I believe in building stronger partnerships between the school and parents. Researchers Anne Henderson and Nancy Berla state, "When parents are involved, students achieve more, regardless of socioeconomic status, ethnic/racial background, or the parent's education." As teachers, we recognize that achievement is higher when parents are invested in their child's education. Teachers, schools, and the State Board of Education can all take the necessary steps to bridge this gap. We must offer a platform for parents to get involved, voice their concerns, and actively make decisions about their child's education. We must be willing to collaborate with parents and find ways to help them realize the impact they have on their child's education. When parents, teachers, and policy makers work in concert, education will be elevated to a whole new level.



Choptank Elementary School

Edith M. Jolley Educational Center

1103 Maces Lane

Cambridge, MD 21613

Phone: 410-228-4950 • Fax: 410-221-1497

Mrs. Emma Pinkett, Principal

Mrs. Julie Lewis, Assistant Principal



1103 Maces Lane
Cambridge, MD 21613
October 2, 2019

Maryland State Board of Education
200 W. Baltimore Street
Baltimore, MD 21202

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Literacy Coach at Choptank Elementary School in Dorchester County, Maryland, I've had the privilege of working with Mrs. Crystal Owens for the past 16 years in her role as a classroom teacher. She has served as team leader and mentor in several grade levels. Crystal is one of the most compassionate people I've had the pleasure of knowing and working with. She was named Dorchester County Teacher of the Year for 2010-2011.

Mrs. Owens would make the perfect addition to the Board; she's respectful of everyone's ideas and opinions, always willing to listen and make rational decisions. Crystal constantly works for the advancement of all students in her classroom, often co-teaching with our EL teacher to support the many English language learners. Her dedication and devotion to the students and staff at Choptank is highly recognized and regarded in our building.

Her level-headed personality and decision-making skills are a benefit as the chair of our school's Faculty Council, establishing a climate of trust. The concept of Faculty Council began in 2009 under a previous superintendent, and Stephen M. R. Covey's, *The Speed of Trust*, with an objective "to provide a structured forum for practicing trust building behaviors to address school-based issues and concerns". These concerns are discussed and problem-solved within the committee, and then presented to our school's administrative team with suggestions for resolution. Crystal's code of ethics shines through in this important role.

Choptank Elementary serves as a Professional Development School, partnering with Salisbury University to prepare and encourage future teachers to take their place in a classroom of their own. Mrs. Owens has successfully served as a mentor teacher for these university students since 2008.

Based on these traits, I highly recommend Mrs. Owens for a position on the State Board of Education.

Respectfully,
Connie E. Dunnock
Literacy Coach



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Emma Pinkett, *Principal*

Julie Lewis, *Assistant Principal*

October 3, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

It is my honor and pleasure to provide this letter of recommendation for Crystal Owens as she pursues the Teacher Member position on the State Board of Education. As the math coach at Choptank Elementary School, I have enjoyed working with Crystal as she has become an integral member of our school community.

I first met Mrs. Owens four years when I become the math coach at her school. Crystal has a positive attitude and an engaging personality that has allowed her to gain a unique and wonderful rapport with the faculty and students at Choptank Elementary. I have observed Crystal and can declare her teaching ability comes naturally and her classroom management skills are phenomenal. Mrs. Owens promotes a safe, healthy, and orderly environment where high-quality instruction occurs daily.

Mrs. Owens has participated in many professional development opportunities and has established an important role in planning collaboratively with her teammates. Crystal has participated in several school and county wide professional developments including working closely with our math and reading consultants. She is always diligent in planning her lessons while utilizing our county frameworks, worked closely with the Common Core standards, and utilized Unify in Performance Matters to analyze data.

I am pleased to recommend Crystal Owens without reservation, for any position requiring hard work, initiative, loyalty, and dedication. She is a great asset to our school and will surely have a positive effect on any board she would serve on.

Sincerely,

Ashley Jones

Ashley Jones, Math Coach
Choptank Elementary School

Choptank Elementary School

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1103 Maces Lane

Cambridge, MD 21613

Phone: 410-228-4950 • Fax: 410-221-1497



Mrs. Emma Pinkett, Principal
Mrs. Julie Lewis, Assistant Principal

September 30, 2019

Dear President Sumpter and Members of the Maryland State Board of Education,

Please accept this letter as my enthusiastic support for Crystal Owens as a candidate for the position of Teacher Representative to the State Board of Education. I have known and worked with Crystal for many years – more than 10. During this time period, I have found her to be an educator who is dedicated to the achievement of her students. She has consistently met her students where they were academically and has diligently worked to advance their skills academically, socially, and emotionally. Crystal has worked at Choptank School for many years as a 1st- grade, 2nd-grade and currently, as a 3rd-grade teacher. In addition, she has also served as Dorchester County’s Teacher of the Year for school year 2011.

In her role as Teacher of the Year, Crystal had the opportunity to demonstrate the qualities of a leader in practice and potential. As a member of the Choptank School staff, she currently serves as the Chairperson of the Faculty Council. In this role, she created a reciprocal relationship between the school administration and the staff. She has fostered this relationship by cultivating a solution driven philosophy. Under her direction, any concerns presented to the committee are discussed and possible solutions are brainstormed and presented to the school’s administration. In addition, due to Crystal’s amiable demeanor, the committee and administration work cohesively to implement changes that benefit the students as well as the staff of Choptank School. As the Teacher Representative to the State Board of Education, Crystal would be fair in her assessment of issues that may come forth while also making sure to make decisions that she believes would be in the best interest of all Maryland students – Eastern and Western shores alike.

Finally, in addition to all of the above, it is important to talk about Crystal as a person. She has a caring, supportive, and welcoming demeanor. I have found as we’ve worked together at Choptank School, that Crystal treated each student at Choptank School as if they were her own child. Crystal has established many relationships with the students during her tenure with DCPS. Her students love her and often return to her classroom for a quick morning hug to help them start their day. Crystal is also very well respected by her colleagues who often seek her out for advice or just to talk. I believe she would bring these same qualities to the State Board of Education.

For these reasons and much more I fully and without reservation endorse Crystal Owens as a candidate for the position of Teacher Representative to the Maryland State Board of Education.

Sincerely,

Emma Pinkett

Emma Pinkett, Principal

Choptank School – “Creating Enduring Success”