



**TANYA PECKHAM~ PROFESSIONAL BIOGRAPHY
FOUNDING INSTRUCTIONAL COACH FOR THE PRIMARY ACADEMY**



Growing up in a home where the importance of school was emphasized and with parents who were actively involved in her education had a profound effect on Tanya's decision to become a teacher. Being part of a military family allowed her the opportunity to live in different places, sample a variety of cultural environments, and enjoy many unique educational experiences. These experiences not only further fostered a love of learning, but also reinforced her belief that effective teachers are those who meet the needs of all the diverse learners that come into their classrooms finding ways to reach each student on different levels.

Tanya has been an educator for 20 years, spending five years in Sumter School District where she is currently the Instructional Coach at Wilder Elementary School. She has spent 18 years as a classroom teacher for 1st-3rd grade and served as an Assistant Principal overseas in the Kingdom of Bahrain for two years. Tanya holds a bachelor's and master's degree in education from the University of Rhode Island. She received her first teaching award in 1998 when she was named First Year Teacher of the Year in Georgia. She received the campus Teacher of the Year title while serving in North Carolina (2004), Georgia (2008), and South Carolina (2019). Tanya was named the Sumter School District Teacher of the Year and a South Carolina State Honor Roll Teacher for 2021 as one of five finalists in the South Carolina Teacher of the Year Program.

Tanya's greatest contributions to the field of education include meeting the needs of her classroom's diverse learners, creating a positive learning environment for students, and providing memorable & engaging hands-on learning experiences for her young scholars. She routinely incorporates a variety of teaching styles and emphasizes positive reinforcement, teaching students that mistakes are learning opportunities. She establishes a solid classroom community of learners, where students have numerous opportunities to share their ideas and work collaboratively with others. As a South Carolina Certified Teacher Mentor, Tanya feels most effective when collaborating and mentoring other educators to grow and develop into strong, effective teachers.