



Sharonda M. Taylor

Sharonda M. Taylor was born in Columbia, South Carolina, to Sharon Taylor. When she was seven months old, she moved to Harlem, New York and was then raised by her grandmother Harriet Taylor.

Sharonda attended New York City public schools. She's a proud graduate of Chelsea Vocational High School, where she received her Regents Diploma in June of 2007. She attended The City College of New York where she majored in English and graduated 2012 with her Bachelor of Arts Degree in English. In November of 2014, Sharonda attended Jackson Hewitt's Tax School and received her Tax Preparation Certificate of Completion.

Sharonda has been working since the age of thirteen. Her first job was working the icy machine on 143rd and 8th Avenue, for her late great aunt Rose. In 2006 she got the opportunity to be a part of the Fred Pressman's Summer Youth Program at BARNEYS NEW YORK and won the \$1,000 college scholarship from Fred Pressman's Scholarship Program for having the best influential person essay (about her grandmother). In January of 2007, she worked part-time doing clerical work for The Department of Labor. In 2009 while attending The City College of New York, she worked seasonal in the campus's bookstore as a cashier, advanced to the Team Lead of Floor Operations, and then the Interim Textbook Manager and worked there for a course of eight years. In 2015, she worked for Jackson Hewitt as a tax preparer. In September of 2015, Sharonda got the opportunity to work at Harlem Children's Zone PA II Elementary Afterschool, where she was a program Aide for almost two years. She worked with children ages 6-16.

In 2017, God answered her prayers. Sharonda got hired to be a second-grade teacher at Success Academy Charter Schools at Bronx One. Her second year, she got the opportunity to teach first grade. After that, she never turned back. As of this year (year three), she is still teaching first grade. On May 15th, 2019, she was recognized and honored as an Academy Excellence Award winner in the Academic Achievement category. She was chosen for this award because she exemplified the educational excellence that all children deserve and that all of the teachers at Success Academy Charter Schools strive for. Her incredible commitment to her scholars, families, and school was an inspiration, and they wanted to deeply let her know that they appreciated all that she did. Without her dedication, commitment, and fantastic hard work, her scholars would not have been able to achieve excellence.

Sharonda's love for teaching comes from her involvement with the youth in her church. She was raised and is a faithful member of the Paradise Baptist Church, under the leadership of Rev. Dr. Lee A. Arrington. She's the overseer for the youth liturgical praise dancers and choir director for the youth and mass choir, and praise and worship leader. Being the overseer for the praise dancers, she's responsible to teach them dances, motivate, and teach them the importance of attending church, choir rehearsals, dance rehearsals, and youth events. She displays an incredible gift of creativity, imagination and inspiration. Sharonda is involved with various church and community events. She is loved and admired by her peers and by the members of her congregation. Most people love her willingness to meet new challenges with a sense of confidence and adventure. She is a young woman who knows exactly what she wants and recognizes the fact that it will take diligence, determination and hard work to make her dreams and aspirations a reality.

There's so much more to learn about Sharonda, like her love for dancing and traveling around the world with her dance group for over nine years Batoto Yetu (Our Children in Swahili). Performing on main stages like; Apollo, Good Morning America, Madison Square Garden, Central Park, Symphony Space, Lincoln Center, Aaron Davis Hall, Hunter College, ABC News, Rockefeller Center, and more.

The most important thing is that Sharonda M Taylor is a child of God. Her favorite scripture is Ephesians 6: 10-13. "Finally, my brethren, be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might. Put on the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil. For we wrestle not against flesh and blood, but against principalities, against powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, against spiritual wickedness in high places. Wherefore take unto you the whole armor of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand."