

## **Qualifications and Experience**

Buddinwriters Academy is equipped to meet the needs of requests in several areas: Reading and writing instruction, literary and digital literacy, teacher and administrative leadership, literacy coaching, classroom instruction, student engagement, differentiated instruction, social-emotional learning, data-led instruction, standards-based instruction, classroom management, team building, interactive teaching and learning, and parental involvement. We are experienced professionals who have studied and participated in the development, utilization, and instructional aspects of the above competencies, and we continue to equip ourselves as new research and approaches evolve in education.

Adding value has always been a priority when assisting educators in understanding how to best meet the needs of their students. Hence, our team is positioned to train or coach participants on best pedagogical practices in their areas of need.

### **Dr. Martha M. Joseph Watts**

Dr. Martha Joseph Watts, the lead presenter for Buddinwriters Academy, is responsible for content development, creating and publishing educational resources, responding to proposals, conducting consultations with prospective clients, conducting Kick-off meetings, and communicating on behalf of the organization. She holds a doctorate in Teacher Training and Leadership, a master's of Fine Arts in Creative Writing, a Master's degree in Educational Leadership, a bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education, and a certificate of teaching in Elementary Education. She is also a certified teacher of English Language Learners or English as a Second Language students, a K-12 Educational Leadership, and reading with the Florida Department of Education. She has also completed more than 60 hours of Social Emotional Learning (SEL) education as a post-COVID response to teaching.

Over her three decades in education, Dr. Joseph Watts served as an instructor at the elementary, middle, secondary, and university levels. She also served as a Literacy Coach for four of those years. In her role as instructor, she served as a language arts teacher to English Language Learners, Students with Learning

Disabilities, honors students, and as a writing instructor at the university level. In 2011 she was awarded the Heath Award for Excellence in Teaching of the Humanities.

As a qualified teacher trainer and someone who served as a teacher leader, she understands the need for the delivery of pedagogical practices that are both fun and effective. As a literacy coach and employee responsible for digital tools for day-to-day instruction, progress monitoring, and summative assessments at her previous position, she is versed with and understands digital literacy, the need for teaching student learners web etiquette, and to equip educators with skills, and tools to keep their students safe while engaging with the internet. During that role, she conducted both virtual and face-to-face professional development sessions at school and district levels. She also presented at ASCD (2015, 2016) Caribbean Studies Association (2010), and 2011), and any opportunity to serve in an instructional role.

She is versed with a few common progress monitoring tools such as IXL, iReady, Reading Plus, Learn 360, and Study Island, as well as tools utilized for working with English Language Learners. Buddinwriters Academy also holds an account with Study Island that it utilizes to help teachers familiarize themselves or get efficient with utilizing the platform for mastering digital learning in science, math, social studies, and Language Arts.

Post-COVID all teachers were to complete training for social-emotional learning

As author and publisher, Dr. Joseph Watts is the creator of the Writing to Respond (WTR) process, an approach for engaging students in reading and writing evidenced-based learning, and for developing critical thinking from PreK. This approach aligns with the “science of reading” approach and supports the principles of learning advocated by educational researchers like

As owner of Buddinwriters Academy, Dr. Joseph Watts navigates and interacts with the Learning Management System, and conducts virtual or face-to-face professional development sessions both on small and large scales.

Dr. Joseph Watts is a philanthropist and community contributor. She donates her educational resources to schools in her home country of Dominica and other underserved settings. She partners with nonprofits to reach communities beyond her reach. As a former Youth Development Officer, she worked with church and

community youth groups to foster group dynamics and teach conflict resolution. She also served in prison ministry and as a Sunday school teacher to youth.

## **Mrs. Nurseen Davis**

Mrs. Nurseen Davis, a presenter and employee of Buddinwriters Academy, holds a Master's degree in reading and a bachelor's degree in English and Secondary Education. She brings more than 30 years of experience in education to the team.

She served as middle and high school Language Arts teacher, and AP or Advanced Placement instructor for Language Arts and Composition. During her role as instructor, Mrs. Davis contributed positively to her school's high rate of success and number of student AP passes that led to college transfer credits.

In her role as department chair of the Language Arts department, she contributed significantly to teacher retention. Her amicable approach to problem-solving and her strong sense of relationship building in her department made the Language Arts department the most stable in the school. The department ranked high in teacher retention, the number of student-winning organizations, such as quiz bowls, debate society, junior tourism minister, National Poetry out Loud Winner, Laws of Life Essay Winners, other community Essay contests, and a beaming school magazine.

She also conducted regular school-wide and department professional development sessions. She supports her administrative team by leading sub-committees on the school improvement and accreditation teams.

As a district Language Arts coordinator, Mrs. Davis supervised and trained Language Arts and English teachers from elementary to high school. She made pedagogical and curriculum decisions on behalf of the district. She vetted materials and consultants, and she participated in the proposal process for contracting consultants. She conducted and planned district-wide professional development sessions, and attended many train-the-trainer sessions.

Mrs. Davis also served as an adjunct faculty of reading at the university level for 17 years. There she prepared students for reading and comprehending complex text by providing them with strategies for succeeding at that level.

Mrs Davis was awarded the Heath Award for Excellence in the Teaching of the Humanities (2009) and was a finalist in Teacher of the Year in her School district in 2012. She engages in philanthropic work in her home country of St. Vincent and volunteers with Buddinwriters in Dominica, and with Buddinwriters Academy.

Mrs. Davis' qualifications and expertise position her to serve as a qualified presenter with Buddinwriters Academy.

## **Mr. Geoffrey Bagnato**

Mr. Geoffrey Bagnato, presenter, and employee responsible for managing Buddinwriters Academy's Learning Management System (LMS), holds a Master of Education and Leadership degree in Applied Digital Learning and a bachelor's degree in Language Arts and Secondary Education. He is also well versed in current school safety management systems or software to monitor student behavior and detect student threats on the internet. He taught on the high school level as a Language Arts teacher and as a digital instructional integrator in the public and private/charter school settings. He is also certified in ESOL and has completed state-mandated training on Students with Disabilities, and social-emotional learning.

While serving in the public school system, he conducted school-based and district-based professional development on utilizing digital literacy to differentiate instruction. Mr. Bagnato also utilized his skills as a digital literacy instructor to create a curriculum for home-room sessions, and bell work that included internet etiquette and safety, use and care of computers or portable devices while at the same time tackling basic language arts and math skills needed for mastering more complex skills in the classrooms. These lessons positively impacted the entire school in literacy, a reduction in inappropriate browsing practices, and the number of computers for repair. Mr. Bagnato utilizes his skills in applied digital learning in the health industry by serving as an IT help desk problem solver, and educator with one of the largest health providers in Brevard County, Florida.

As a Language Arts teacher, Mr. Bagnato advocated for developing critical thinking through the use of higher-order thinking questions, he implemented the Writing to Respond (WTR) process as a tool to improve writing performance in students, He was an advocate for the “flipped classroom” and utilized digital media to bring choice or preference for the order of learning objectives to motivate reluctant learners. The implementation of that initiative resulted in marked improvements in students’ attitudes to learning and an increase in their test scores.

Before these experiences, Mr. Bagnato worked with an educational facility for boys with behavioral disabilities. He taught and mentored school-aged males, led to their rehabilitation and reintegration to the regular school settings. This experience makes Mr. Bagnato an excellent fit for working with youths of various backgrounds, and for supporting educators in their efforts to effectively serve students of varied educational capabilities. His overall qualifications and experiences position him as an excellent presenter with Buddinwriters Academy.