

## **Team 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, and youth mental health, teacher mindfulness, 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, and coach participants on best pedagogical practices in their areas of need.

### **Dr. Martha M. Joseph, Ed.D, MFA, MA, BA**

Dr. Martha Joseph, 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 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 Florida Literacy Association (2019), ASCD (2015, 2016), National Writing Project, (2011, 2013), 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 is the creator of the Writing to Respond (WTR) process, an approach for engaging students in reading, evidenced-based writing, 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.

As owner of Buddinwriters Academy, Dr. Joseph navigates and interacts with the Learning Management System, and conducts virtual and face-to-face professional development sessions both on small and large scales. Her most recent and successful presentations were with Non-public school teachers in April 2024, and September 2023, public school teachers May and August 2024. Evaluations from these sessions are commendable.

Dr. Joseph is a philanthropist and community contributor. She donates her educational resources to schools in her home country of Dominica, Uganda in Sub Saharan Africa, 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, teach conflict resolution, and encourage skill development. She also served in prison ministry and as a Sunday school teacher.

She uses her love for broadcasting to share habits for success to educators and the wider community. Visit **L'Habitille: Habits that Count** on Spotify, or Youtube for insight into her episodes

<https://open.spotify.com/show/5pVJjIhMzT97uhXZduQkOh?si=831cd91c2d9548ae>

## **Mrs. Nurseen Davis, MA, BA**

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, MA, BA**

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.

### **Mrs. Marah Languedoc, MA, LCPC, CCM, BA**

As a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Certified Case Manager, and Certified Recovery Specialist for the past 10 years, Mrs. Languedoc is highly qualified as a mental health specialist and brings a coveted level of excellence to the Buddinwriters Team. Her professional experience includes Community Mental Health, Crisis Intervention, Behavioral Health Case Management, and Child and Adolescent Therapy. She is committed to empowering individuals with the tools, support, and knowledge they

need to perform optimally in their daily lives. Through evidence-based strategies, unconditional positive regard, and motivational interviewing, she helps her clients navigate through challenges, build resilience, and utilize their inner strength to overcome their challenges.

Mrs. Languedoc engaged in youth clinical behavioral therapy on the West Side of Chicago's public school system. She encounters and manages these cases both as assigned case manager during her work day, and as a volunteer clinical professional. She provides crisis intervention techniques with adolescents and participates in workshops dealing with strategies and modalities to implement during crisis situations at select schools.

She sees and treats adolescence and teens displaying self-harm behaviors, eating disorders, and a variety of other mental/behavioral health conditions such as oppositional defiant disorder, conduct disorder, depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and many more.

Mrs. Languedoc also provides professional development services to educators on mental wellness, teacher mindfulness, youth mental health, social emotional learning, teens and emotional impact of cyber bullying, the impact and effects of over exposure to electronic devices on school age students, and the social impact of the internet and social media on teens' self-esteem and their social well-being

In addition to her work with schools she also shares her expertise on broadcasts and podcasts when the opportunity arises. You can find her most recent contributions On the "Podcast "**L'Habittle: Habits that Count!**" where she provides parents with tips for preventing and addressing over exposure to electronic devices. She cautions parents of toddlers and provides APA guidelines for screen time from ages 18 months to 17 years. She warns about dopamine overloads and the correlation to early cravings for addictive substances. Mrs. Languedoc is passionate about her reach to youths.

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/4MCoPJ7Hpp8rsgcT1P8TeA?si=Pl-N4M8DQ96WBBIfQW61ew>

## **Dr. Gail Ettiene, (MD, MBA, MS, BS)**

Dr. Ettiene a family medicine physician brings a wealth of relevant knowledge and expertise to Buddinwriters Academy. As one who experiences first-hand the effects and impact of social media, the internet, and over exposure to screen, she is qualified to support educators on their journey to equip students in leading a healthy lifestyle.

During her time as doctor in training in Wisconsin, she counsels patients on nutrition, preventative health care, chronic disease management, and mental well-being. She guides teen patients on how to manage conditions such as depression, anxiety, ADHD, schizophrenia, and bipolar disorder.

As a physician, she has encountered and supported teens diagnosed with Internet and Gaming Disorder, and helped these teens manage the anxiety and depression that often accompanies their condition through adequate cognitive behavioral therapy. She also engages in one-to-one family preventative talks that encourage families to set time limits and promote healthy social interactions.

Dr. Ettiene engaged in interactive professional development as a researcher on food borne diseases. She engaged audiences on both local and international forums in the United Kingdom and Germany. As an elementary school teacher, she interacted and taught children in all academic subjects. Later, she taught science to secondary school students. During those classroom days, Dr. Ettiene built rapport with students who were reluctant to speak with their school counselors. All these years later, she has honed those trustworthy skills to win the confidence of youth with emotional struggles and, to share with parents how to support their students.

Dr. Ettiene's extensive experience in health service management, and project management, as well as her interaction with children and youth in need of social emotional help positions her as a perfect fit for supporting schools in their mission to support educators and reach students before it is too late.

