

Eric Robinson

Special Education Teacher

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in the Bronx, New York. I lived in New York, until I was a young adult. I moved to Minneapolis to attend college and have been here ever since.

What were your experiences in High School?

I went to an all-boys high school in the Bronx, called DeWitt Clinton High School. It was known for its athletics, particularly its basketball program, and its strong academic program. I went to DeWitt because I knew I'd get a good education. Unfortunately, I didn't always make the best choices in high school and often bowed to peer pressure. It took me a while to find my way to furthering my education after graduating from high school



Where did you go to school?

After graduating from DeWitt Clinton in the Bronx, I worked for a while, but decided the best way to improve my life was to go to college. I attended North Central University in Minneapolis where I got my bachelor's degree in pastoral studies, and then got my teaching license and master's degree from St. Thomas University.

Why did you become a teacher / para / other?

I became a teacher primarily because I had started working with African American male students focusing on behavior and social skills in a Minneapolis public school, and enjoyed working with young people. I decided to pursue a career as a teacher to further help students.

Where did you work before Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I've worked at charter schools, most recently Community of Peace Academy in St. Paul. I've also worked in a variety of positions in Minneapolis Public Schools.

Why did you choose to work at Augsburg Fairview Academy? Why a charter school and not a public school?

I chose to work at AFA because it is a smaller school and it seemed to have a holistic approach to education. I like working at charter schools because they have more flexibility to cater to different students' needs in ways that may be more difficult for traditional schools.

What was your first impression of Augsburg Fairview Academy?

I sensed that AFA staff were committed to collaborating with one another to meet the needs of all students, emotional, academically, and socially.

What has surprised you most about working at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

To see that AFA is committed to processing with students in a way that reduces suspensions.

What do you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

The school's model between teacher and administration that gives staff more decision making power.

What don't you like about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

So far, there's nothing I don't like.

What do you wish other people knew about Augsburg Fairview Academy?

That the school is focused on a holistic view of a student's development—educational, mental, emotional, and physical health.

What would you say are some of your strongest beliefs about education?

That education gives all students opportunity to succeed, students will not be discriminated against, and schools are to be a safe environment.

What's your personal philosophy on what should be done about education?

I believe that all students have the ability to learn and the potential to improve academically when they choose to. In addition, I believe educators should be encouragers and role models; they should be patient with students on a consistent basis in order to build positive relationships.

What would you tell someone who is thinking about enrolling at Augsburg Fairview Academy?

When you attend AFA you will experience staff who will listen to you, give you space, and will work with you where you are at.

What are your hobbies?

Collecting jazz books, listening to jazz CDs, reading Black literature, collecting fedoras, and biking.

If you weren't working at Augsburg Fairview Academy, what would you be doing instead, or what would your life be like?

Somehow working with young people in a different capacity.

What might someone be surprised to know about you?

I am a die-hard Yankees fan, and I write poetry occasionally.

How would your students describe you?

As a patient person and one who likes to tell stories.