

AMERICAN GRADUATE CHAMPION



Joquetta Johnson

Joquetta Johnson is a passion-driven high school library media specialist at [Randallstown High School](#) in Baltimore County, Maryland, a Google Certified Teacher, and a highly sought-after national presenter. In 2014, she received the prestigious PBS LearningMedia Digital Innovator award.

Known for her energetic teaching and presentation style, Joquetta inspires students and educators to think, teach, and learn outside of the box! Her favorite part of the job is leveraging technology, cultural relevant pedagogy, and Hip Hop Culture to excite, engage, empower, and enable ALL students to have fun while achieving academic success and pursuing personal interests.

Innovative Use of Technology

While most educators see mobile phones and social media in the classroom as distractions, Joquetta, a social media butterfly, advocates for their use for teaching and learning. Her library has a web-presence on Twitter, Instagram, and YouTube. She exposes her students to global and authentic audiences, by tweeting and sharing their work on Twitter.

During a recent fieldtrip to a museum, Joquetta had students document and share their experience using Twitter and Vine. For the past two years, Joquetta has been an invited speaker at the Baltimore City High School Basketball Academy. During her session, she teaches student athletes how to use social media as an **on-ramp** not a **road block** to their college and career aspirations.

Empowering and Engaging Students

Joquetta engages her students by connecting their lives to the learning. Grounded with this knowledge, she leverages technology, cultural relevant pedagogy, and Hip Hop Culture to excite, engage, empower, and enable ALL students to have fun while achieving academic success and pursuing personal interests.

*Like the author Dave Durgess states in his book, **Teach Like a Pirate**, "Much of your success as an educator has to do with your attitude towards teaching and towards children." I believe ALL students can learn.*

Making an Impact

Sincerely dedicated to her students, Joquetta extends herself well beyond the basics. She shared this uplifting and empowering story with us!

At the request of the parent, in 2007, I was given court appointed guardianship of a student at the high school where I was the library media specialist. Prior to this student living with me, I had been her mentor and confidant. She was a known "troublemaker" and with a GPA below 2.0, her future was not looking bright. By 2008, she was an honor roll student, scholarship recipient, and a student page in Annapolis. This year she received a community award for her dedicated service as an advocate for at risk youth and is she is currently pursuing her Master's Degree.

A Digital D.I.V.A.

Fun fact! Joquetta is lovingly known in the educational technology industry as the "Digital D.I.V.A." D.I.V.A. stands for: **D**ynamic, **I**nnovative, **V**isionary, and **A**uthentic educator.

Get Connected!

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