



➤ Provincial Winner

Excellence in Teaching Mathematics | GET

Name: Ms Shariefa Clark
School: Beacon Hill High School, Beacon Valley,
Mitchell's Plain
District: Metro South Education District

Ms Shariefa (Gabriels) Clark is an exceptional educator and leader whose dedication to teaching and community engagement sets her apart. Currently serving as the Mathematics subject head and acting deputy principal at Beacon Hill High School in Mitchell's Plain, Ms Clark's passion for education shines through her commitment to her students' success and her continuous pursuit of personal and professional growth.

At the heart of her efforts lies her involvement in the Back on Track programme run by the Western Cape Education Department, where she goes above and beyond to provide extra Mathematics classes every second Tuesday. This initiative aims to support students who may be facing academic challenges and she offers them an opportunity to improve their mathematical skills and understanding.

Recognising the importance of collaboration and best practices in education, Ms Clark actively engages with a mathematics community. This network allows her to share her expertise and learn from other educators, ensuring her teaching methods remain innovative

and effective.

In her pursuit of excellence, she equips her students with valuable skills beyond the curriculum. As a registered scribe, she provides essential support to learners who require assistance during assessments, promoting inclusivity and equal opportunities for all students. Moreover, she empowers both learners and teachers with reflective learning, fostering computer literacy and modern technological skills.

Ms Clark's commitment to challenging her students to reach their full potential is evident in her registration of students for Mathematics quizzes and Olympiads. These platforms offer opportunities for students to showcase their talents, test their knowledge, and broaden their horizons in Mathematics.

In her classroom, she encourages critical and creative thinking exercises, empowering her students to make informed decisions and life choices. Her dedication to instilling essential life skills and nurturing well-rounded individuals extends beyond academics.

Amid the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms Clark's



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innovative use of Information and Communication Technology became a beacon of hope for her students. She creatively set up an online teaching studio using the inventive creative box technique, ensuring that her students continued to receive a high-quality education remotely.

Her impact extends far beyond the school gates. In the community of Mitchell's Plain, she has developed a vast network of stakeholders to enhance her teaching practices. Despite the challenges faced by the community, her initiatives, including food drives, toy drives, grandparent appreciation days, a learner driver's license programme, and upgrades to girls' bathrooms, have left a profound positive impact on the lives of those she serves.

As a true advocate for education, Ms Clark actively mentors both experienced and novice teachers from other schools. Through her guidance and encouragement, she inspires fellow

educators to integrate innovative teaching methods that benefit students across all subjects and create an inclusive learning environment.

Ms Clark's life story serves as a testament to the power of dreams and determination. Her inspiring motto, «If you can dream, you can achieve», resonates deeply with her students, motivating them to embrace their aspirations and pursue their goals relentlessly.

Ms Clark is a shining example of a dedicated and compassionate educator. Her unwavering passion for teaching, tireless pursuit of personal and professional growth, and profound commitment to her students and community make her a beacon of light in Mitchell's Plain. Through her innovative teaching methods, community engagement, and inspiring leadership, she continues to empower her students to dream big and confidently shape their own bright futures.



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