



→ Provincial Winner

Excellence in teaching Natural Sciences

Name: Ziyaad Noordien
School: West End Primary School, Lenteguur, Mitchells Plain
District: Metro South

Mr Noordien is an exceptional Natural Sciences educator whose innovative teaching methods and dedication to his students' success make him an inspiration.

Mr Noordien engages in continuing professional development activities, enhancing classroom activities through innovative techniques such as Photo-voice. He uses advanced AI applications like LIVE Worksheets, Quizzes, Magic Slides, and Question Well to create interactive learning platforms, engaging learners and making complex concepts accessible and exciting.

As a BSc graduate teaching the Intermediate Phase, he has made a concerted effort to understand how scientific concepts are taught from the Foundation Phase, which informs his teaching in all other phases. This comprehensive understanding allows him to create a cohesive learning experience for his students. Mr Noordien integrates 4IR skills

and competencies into his teaching, preparing learners for future challenges. He uses tools like PhET Interactive simulations on tablets and Google forms for real-time assessment feedback, making learning dynamic and participatory. His flipped-classroom approach encourages self-directed learning and peer-to-peer teaching, fostering a collaborative learning environment.

He encourages active participation in extra-curricular activities such as visits to Intaka Island and the Science Centre, as well as involvement in Grow Smart, Astro Quiz, SAATA Olympiads, and the Eskom Expo. His dedication to holistic education is further demonstrated through the vegetable garden project with Food and Trees for Africa, engaging Grade 4-7 students weekly.

Mr Noordien addresses social justice issues by implementing programmes like Box-of-Hope, which distributes food to families during off-school

periods. He also promotes inclusivity and diversity through his educational initiatives, ensuring all students have access to quality education.

He actively contributes to Professional Learning Communities (PLCs), sharing best practices with colleagues both within his school and beyond. His commitment to lifelong learning is evident in his pursuit of a Master's degree in Educational Psychology, during which he engaged with international educational stakeholders in Germany and presented workshops to his colleagues.

Mr Noordien's passion for Natural Sciences is evident in his creative use of learning materials and technology to enhance understanding and engagement. He motivates learners to pursue careers in science and uses Creative Arts to make science accessible and enjoyable. His innovative teaching methods, such as robotics sessions and critical thinking exercises, enable students to explore and explain scientific observations independently. Notably, he petitioned for an Astronomy Convention to allow his Grade 7 learners to attend, an event specified for Grade 9-12 learners, and it was allowed, showcasing his commitment to providing advanced learning opportunities for his students.

He models lifelong learning and positive relationships, both within the school and the broader community.

His initiatives, such as the hiking club and partnerships with home-school communities, demonstrate his commitment to student engagement and wellbeing. He also facilitates goal-setting and academic improvement by visually plotting learners' scores and celebrating their successes.

In conclusion, Ziyaad Noordien embodies the qualities of an outstanding educator. His innovative teaching methods, commitment to professional development, and dedication to his students' holistic growth make him an exemplary candidate for the National Teaching Award in the category of Excellence in Natural Sciences.