



Podcast Discussion Guide for Instructional Staff



Orange County
Public Schools

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EPISODE 006

Topic: Passion & Purpose (<https://bit.ly/2UXirID>)

Guests: Jeffery Redding, West Orange High teacher & 2019 GRAMMY Music Educator of the Year

Suggested Discussion Questions:

- Let's start with a fun "get-to-know-you" question – what's your favorite type of music?
- Jeff is both the product of OCPS and now a teacher here. How many here at our school are also "born & bred"?
- What most inspired you about the interview with Dr. Redding?
- Jeff talked about adding excitement to the tools of teaching, and how growing his world makes him both a better teacher and a better student. What helps you grow your world? What do you do to help your students grow their worlds?
- Crossing curriculum by incorporating ASL into music lessons is so innovative. What are some cross-curricular ideas have you had?
- Jeff talked about falling in love with music as a young boy on the swings at Orange Center Elementary, and how he keeps that feeling strong as a teacher. What helps you inspire a love of learning in your students?
- His mother taught him that if you focus on the process of life, the product takes care of itself; that someone will help you once you help yourself. Is that a lesson that you help your students learn too?
- To Jeff, winning a GRAMMY represents that ordinary kids can do extraordinary things. He was in remedial classes and was retained once. In his classes, he has the goal of when he walks away, the students can teach themselves. How does that resonate with you?
- Anyone can sing, he says, and everyone is given a degree of talent and at the end of the day the issue is whether you believe it or not. How do you uncover and nurture the talents of your students?

- Jeff experienced racism when he first started at OCPS, and so now he works to control his environment teaches with a purpose to unify. His class motto is “Passion & Purpose.” Do you have a class motto? Let’s share those.
- Jeff talks about the importance of giving as a teacher, no matter how a student may receive your gift. “Someone may not get what you have, still give it. Someone may get it, give more.” Because he was the kid who didn’t always get it. We all know students like that. Can someone share a way they reached a student they thought was unreachable?
- As an ambassador for arts education, he wants to change the conversation of arts classes as an elective or aside of regular core classes. How do we treat the arts here at our school? Can we marry them into other classes in more strategic and meaningful ways?

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