

TARA BURKE JOHNSTON

Curriculum Vitae

2311 Benjamin Building, College Park, MD 20742

(512) 466-8667 • tjohnst1@umd.edu

Updated: September 2022

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park, Ph.D. in Literacy Education, *expected 2023*

- ABD
- Dissertation: Kindergarten Teachers' Vocabulary Knowledge and Practices

Belhaven University, M.Ed. in Reading Literacy, 2016

Millsaps College, B.A. in Elementary Education, 2014

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, University of Maryland, 2021 – present

- *Coaching System Model for Students with Disabilities: Adaptive Intervention Model Coaching (AIM Coaching)*. U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Office of Special Education Programs (84.326M). \$1,599,961. Principal Investigators: Dr. Jade Wexler & Dr. Elizabeth Swanson.
- Produce and present professional development materials for teachers and literacy coaches in middle schools
- Support literacy coaches and teachers in implementing PACT (Promoting Adolescent Comprehension of Text) in middle schools
- Develop adaptive coaching resources for middle school literacy coaches
- Collect, organize, clean, and analyze data on teacher literacy practices in middle schools
- Produce practitioner papers on best practices for adolescent literacy instruction
- Plan and coordinate weekly research team meetings
- Supervisor: Dr. Jade Wexler

Graduate Research Volunteer, University of Maryland, 2022-present

- *Project CLIMB: Capturing Language Immersion Benefits*. Goal 1, Exploration, Special Topics: Foreign Language Instruction Research Grants Competition, Institute of Education Sciences (IES; \$1,400,000). Principal Investigator: Dr. Ana Taboada Barber
- Support student testing and data collection procedures
- Support assessor trainings
- Supervisor: Dr. Ana Taboada Barber

Special Education Graduate Administrative Assistant, University of Maryland, 2022 – present

- Provide administrative support to the Special Education Program at the University of Maryland: scheduling, presentation development, portfolio development, identify and present the scope and role of the Special Education program within the College of Education

- Supervisor: Dr. Jade Wexler

Elementary Education Graduate Administrative Assistant, University of Maryland, 2017 – 2021

- Place undergraduate teacher candidates in local schools for early field experiences
- Serve as the liaison and contact for administrators working with the Elementary Education Program
- Partner with local community stake holders to implement tutoring program
- Supervisor: Tracy Dunheimer

Elementary Reading Clinic Teacher, University of Maryland, Summer 2019 & Summer 2022

- Supervisor: Dr. Ayanna Baccus

University Supervisor for Teacher Residents - Elementary Education, University of Maryland, 2019 – 2021

Graduate Student Advocate, Graduate Student Legal Aid Office, University of Maryland, 2017 - 2021

School Leadership Team Member, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2015-2017

School Literacy Specialist, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2016-2017

District Literacy Development Team Member, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2015-2017

Kindergarten Teacher, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2014-2017

Kindergarten Intern, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2013-2014

Peer Literacy Coach, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2015-2017

UNIVERSITY TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor	Fall 2022: EDSP484/684 Teaching Reading and Writing in Special Education Classrooms II, University of Maryland
Instructor	Fall 2021, Fall 2020 (online), Fall 2019 & Fall 2018: TLPL341 Assessing Language and Literacy Development in Elementary Classrooms; University of Maryland
Guest Lecturer	Fall 2021: Foundations of Literacy Course, M.Ed. program, session on orthography and vocabulary development and assessment, University of Maryland

- Guest Lecturer** Summer 2021 (online), Summer 2020, & Summer 2019: MCERT Course on Reading Assessment in Elementary Education, University of Maryland
- Instructor** Spring 2021 (online), Spring 2020 (pivot to online in March) & Spring 2019: TLPL342 Promoting Skilled and Motivated Readers in Elementary Classrooms, Part 1, University of Maryland
- Instructor** Spring 2018: EDCI 489C Classroom Management Methods Seminar; University of Maryland
- Teaching Assistant** Spring 2018: EDCI 488L Promoting Skilled and Motivated Readers in Elementary Classrooms, Part I, University of Maryland
- Teaching Assistant** Fall 2017 & Fall 2018: TLPL 479G Field Experiences in Education, University of Maryland
- Teaching Assistant** Fall 2017: EDCI 488R Language and Literacy Development in Schools and Communities, University of Maryland

PUBLICATIONS

Johnston, T. B. & Dreher, M. J. (In Press). Planting knowledge seeds: Teaching content area vocabulary to young children. *Pennsylvania Reads*.

Dreher, M. J. & **Johnston, T. B.** (2019, August). Book review: *Little readers, big thinkers: Teaching close reading in the primary grades*, by A. Stewart. *Teachers College Record*. <https://www.tcrecord.org> ID Number: 23054

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Stark, K., Wexler, J., Shelton, A., **Johnston, T. B.**, & Omohundro, K. (In Progress). Supportive pedagogy for struggling readers: Observing explicit instruction and evidence-based literacy practices in middle school classrooms.

REFEREED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Johnston, T. B. & Dreher, M. J. (2022, December). *Kindergarten teachers' vocabulary knowledge and practices: Preliminary findings*. Paper presentation at the Literacy Research Association, Phoenix, AZ.

Johnston, T. B. (2022, January). *Teaching Content Area Vocabulary to Young Children*. Presentation at the annual conference of the State of Maryland Literacy Association, online.

Johnston, T. B. & Dreher, M. J. (2020, December). *Pedagogies and Identities: A Qualitative Study of Literacy Methods Teacher Educators*. Paper presentation at the Literacy Research Association, online.

Johnston, T. B. (2020, April). *Critical Literacy in Early Childhood: Recommendations for Teachers to Get Kids Talking and Thinking about Race, Racism, and Social Justice*. Paper presentation at the State of Maryland Literacy Association, Hunt Valley, MD.

Johnston, T. B. & Dreher, M. J. (2019, December). *Closing the Word and Knowledge Gap: Conceptual Knowledge and Vocabulary Development in Preschool and Kindergarten*. Paper presentation at the Literacy Research Association, Tampa, FL

GRANTS & AWARDS

Outstanding Graduate Assistant (Graduate student fees waived), The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2020-2021

Dean's Fellowship (\$7,500), The Graduate School, University of Maryland, August 2017-August 2020

Jacob K. Goldhaber Travel Grant (\$250) The Graduate School, University of Maryland, December 2019

New Teacher of the Year, Jackson Public Schools, Jackson, Mississippi, 2015

Outstanding Student Teacher in Elementary Education, Millsaps College, Mississippi Department of Education, 2014

CERTIFICATIONS AND TEACHING CREDENTIALS

1-6 Elementary Education, 1-6 Reading Specialist: State of Maryland, Valid 2020-2025

K-6 Elementary Education, K-12 Reading Education: State of Mississippi, Valid 2019 – 2024

SERVICE

Department Meeting Committee Officer, Teaching & Learning, Policy & Leadership Graduate Student Association, University of Maryland, 2022 – Present

Graduate Student Government, Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership Department Representative, University of Maryland, 2021 – 2022

President's Commission on LGBTQ+ Issues, Graduate Student Government Representative, University of Maryland, 2021-2022

Reviewer, Literacy Research Association Annual Conference, 2019 – Present

Reviewer, *Literacy Research: Theory, Method, & Practice*, 2020 – Present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Literacy Research Association
International Literacy Association
American Education Research Association
State of Maryland Literacy Association