

# GET TO KNOW

# Dr. Alicia Thompson

## **Q: Where did you go to school?**

A: I attended Carter Elementary, where my mother was a 4th grade teacher. I went there from Kindergarten through 3rd grade, then transferred to Chisholm Trail Elementary for 4th and 5th grades because my mom thought it would be better that I wasn't in her classroom. I attended middle school at Brooks, and I'm a proud graduate of Wichita High School Heights.

## **Q: Who was your favorite teacher and why?**

A: My favorite teacher was Ms. Nancy Garvey, my kindergarten teacher. She gave me a hug every day - I'll never forget that. She still checks in with me from time to time. I just remember the way she made me feel - she was so loving and kind and really made an impact on me. She is one of the reasons why I chose to go into education. I wanted to be able to help students feel the way she made me feel.

## **Q: What was your favorite subject and why?**

A: Recess (just kidding)! My favorite subject was probably reading. I loved to read, especially action books. As I moved into high school, I also read romance novels. Now I read leadership books, best practices and instructional materials. My favorite book is "The Speed of Trust" by Stephen Covey.

## **Q: What is your most memorable moment as a student?**

A: My most significant memories involve my teachers. I remember the hugs, the time they took to make sure the material made sense, hands-on activities in the classroom, ways that the instruction was delivered, relationships that were built, and really just how much they invested in not only me, but all of their students.

## **Q: What was your favorite thing about being a teacher?**

A: The best part of being a teacher was building that relationship with the students and being able to see the light bulb turn on when they realized they could do something they thought they couldn't.

## **Q: What are your favorite school traditions?**

A: North High - climb to the top of the bell tower, West High - Graduation walk along the river to Century II

## **Q: In your opinion, what is the best thing about Wichita?**

A: The people are the best thing about Wichita. This community is just wonderful. We care about each other, we care about our city and we care what happens to our people. That's what makes us so unique and why I'm so proud to live here.

## **Q: What are your favorite local restaurants?**

A: I love Doo-Dah Diner! They have the best Chicken & Waffles - and chocolate covered bacon.

## **Q: What is the thing you remember most about Wichita from your childhood?**

A: Joyland! I was so sad when Joyland closed.

## **Q: What is your favorite television show?**

A: The Cosby Show and Good Times

## **Q: What is your favorite movie?**

A: The Bourne series - I like action movies.

## **Q: What is your favorite music genre/artist/song?**

A: I love all music. What I'm listening to at any given point in time is dependent on my mood and what I'm doing. If I'm stressed, I listen to spa music. When I'm relaxing, I love jazz. If I'm in the car with my daughter, it's Radio Disney or the Kirk Franklin Gospel Station. If I'm trying to get myself pumped up for something, then Earth, Wind & Fire.

**Q: If you could only eat one food for the rest of your life, what would it be?**

A: French Fries. My daughter and I sometimes just eat french fries and milkshakes from Jimmies Diner. I also love Skittles, and popcorn and Hot Tamales mixed together.

**Q: What are book are you currently reading?**

A: *Marzano's District Leadership that Works*

**Q: When you were a kid, what was your favorite thing to do with your family?**

A: Go to Joyland! I think we went to Joyland once a month, my brother and I begged and begged for our parents to take us. We also loved going skating and going to the drive-in movie.

**Q: What's your favorite board game?**

A: Battleship

**Q: What do you like to do with your kids?**

A: I have daughters, so we love to get our nails done, go shopping and just spend time talking with my parents. We also like to give my husband, Reggie, a hard time about being the only guy in the house.

**Q: What is a hobby of yours?**

A: Reading, shopping, and spending time with my kids.

**Q: Why did you go into education?**

A: Teachers like Ms. Garvey really inspired me. They made me feel like being a teacher was the best thing you could do because you help people feel smart, capable and good about themselves. When I went to college, I had plans to go to medical school, but I changed my mind fairly shortly after watching a couple of med school videos and seeing all the blood. Though I never talked much about being a teacher with my mom and aunt (both teachers) growing up, after I decided that a medical career wasn't in my future, they challenged me to process through and identify what I was good at and what inspired me. My mom talked about her experiences as a teacher and that led me right back to education.

**Q: Who inspires you?**

A: My parents. Both of them are amazing people. They put good things into me and my brother, including motivation and encouragement. They're my inspiration.

**Q: What is the best advice you have ever received?**

A: It came from my mom and dad. They raised my brother & I in the church and dad always went back to "You can do all things through Christ who strengthens you." No matter what happens, or what obstacles you face, you can call on and depend on God to be there for you. Keep Christ in your life and lean on the teachings of the church.

**Q: What is an interesting fact about you people might not know?**

A: I was first runner up in Ms. Langston Oklahoma pageant.

**Q: What else would be interesting to share?**

A: One thing I might add is that I am a strong advocate for organ donation. I know from personal experience what it means to save someone's life through organ donation. Several years ago, I donated a kidney to my brother. He was an otherwise healthy person, but he had a rare disease that attacked his kidneys. I never would have thought about organ donation, but I learned a lot through the time that I spent with him at the Mayo Clinic, and listening to people talk about how a living organ donor saved their lives. I'm also part of a sorority whose philanthropic initiative is awareness, especially to disadvantaged people, of the importance and safety of living organ donation.