

Mr. Adeniyi



Mr. Adeniyi is the Vice Principal for Sunchild School junior/senior high school. He also teaches Grade 7 Drumming, Grade 7 and 8 Health Sciences, Grade 9 Science, and he is the special education coordinator for students with special needs.

Mr. Adeniyi has played drums almost all his life. “You can communicate through playing drums. If you listen carefully, you can tell what I am saying.”

Growing up in Nigeria, Mr. Adeniyi had drums and other instruments from his youngest days. As an adult, he played professionally to audiences in USA and Canada, as part of the West African Drums musical group.

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He was born in Nigeria, in a town near the Southwest farming communities, and not very far from the International Institute of Tropical Agriculture in the city of Ibadan. The Institute works to enhance crop quality and productivity and generate wealth from agriculture, with the ultimate goals of reducing hunger and poverty, and increasing nutrition,

That's quite a calling. No wonder Mr. Adeniyi was inspired by agriculture.

“When I was 14, I wanted to be in agricultural economics, the business of farming. So, after high school I went to Ibadan.” But in school, he was strongest in math and business, which led to accounting school and ultimately led to teaching.

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“When I was a child my parents were good, caring people. But my biggest role model was the person who founded the church I used to belong to.”

“I had many opportunities to do church assignments and learned a lot from attending meetings and conferences. My life changed spiritually when I gave my life to Jesus Christ. I became a different man and I love the things of God.”

He also had the opportunity to teach small groups and children in Sunday School, and that teaching was to stick with Mr. Adeniyi.

But ultimately, he saw a better future in North America, so he took his accounting degree to the USA. He settled near to his uncle, who had already immigrated to the US state of Indiana, which also has lots of farms.

Trying to apply his degree to work, and get experience, his journey led him not to farming economics, but to teaching once again. First as a teacher's assistant, to younger grades, he discovered his love of teaching.

Almost 30 years later, Mr. Adeniyi came to teach at Sunchild School. With that much experience, he's also earned the position of Vice Principal for the school.

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Almost all countries in Africa were colonized by European countries. Nigeria was colonized by England, from about 1860 until 1960 when Nigeria gained its independence.

“I am familiar with the problems of colonial education,” says Mr. Adeniyi. “In Nigeria, our education came from the British. I know the same thing happened here in Canada. Indigenous peoples and their values were not respected.”

“We have to teach a value system that places the right importance on indigenous beliefs,” continues Mr. Adeniyi. “For example, our Science classes can include examining beliefs about animals such as the eagle, or the bear, or the beaver. This is important teaching that respects the beliefs of the community.”



During childhood, the music of Nigeria inspired Mr. Adeniyi, and he learned to play drums. When he got to Indiana, he started playing drums professionally.

“In the US, my uncle had a group called Drums of West Africa. We used to go around to perform at schools in the USA and in Canada. We did that from 1996 to 2004.”

So, 8 solid years of public drumming performances are under Mr. Adeniyi’s belt. He’s looking forward to drumming with Sunchild School students in his classes.

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“We have to remember the teachers are not magicians,” says Mr. Adeniyi.

“For each student, we all have to be involved.as a team - the students, the family, the teacher and the school. We need to be on the same page.”

He has faith that a good team can educate any child. Just like the saying that it takes a village to raise a child - be kind and try to help them. Mr. Adeniyi also teaches special education classes.

He welcomes any student's questions, or anyone needing discussion. "Any student who has a question or wants to discuss something should ask so we can go over it."

The teachings of the pastor he met in Lagos many years ago have stayed with him, and Mr. Adeniyi is a person of Faith.

"Every day I prepare myself before I leave home. I pray, and that gives me the grace to face the challenges of the day."

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Does he like sports? Yes, some to watch, and some to play.

"When I was young, I loved soccer (called football in Nigeria). But it was not yet popular when I moved to the US, so I don't follow it anymore. I love basketball. My favourite team is the Golden State Warriors."

The sport this Sunchild School teacher plays best is ping pong.

"I learned ping pong in Nigeria, and I am very good at it!" says Mr. Adeniyi with enthusiasm.

If he finds a ping pong table at the school, he is happy to receive challengers. "I can beat anybody!" Some Sunchild School students will want to see if their ping pong is better than his.

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