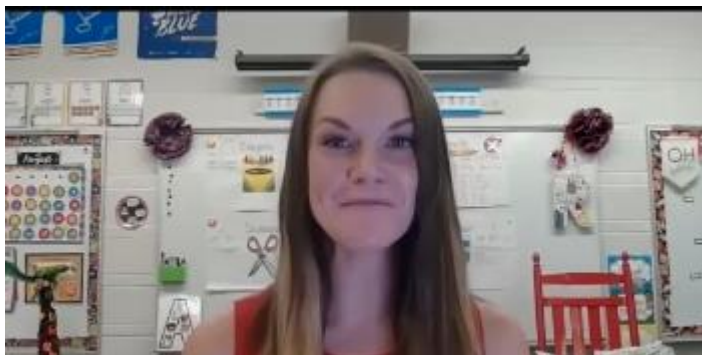


Here's what it's like to teach kindergarten during COVID-19

Emily has been teaching for four years at Garrett Elementary in the Hazelwood School District



<https://www.ksdk.com/article/news/local/teaching-kindergarten-during-covid/63-94653da9-2204-4b93-af70-87bd2022df79>

HAZELWOOD, Mo. — She called herself a walking cliché right off the bat. Her words, not mine. And I have to say, I don't agree. "It's going to sound cliché," she said. "But, I've always wanted to be a kindergarten teacher because of my kindergarten teacher." And Emily Rudolph was made for the job. Her energy, even on a Zoom interview, is impressive. She's excited to answer each of my questions and she's incredibly expressive. Emily has been teaching for four years at Garrett Elementary in the Hazelwood School District. Right now, she's alone in the classroom. Due to the pandemic, she met her students for the first time online and teaches them virtually every day. "I have as much energy as them and we just make an awesome duo. We're just trying to engage each other and give them the love of learning because kindergarten is the stepping stone of learning." As for kindergarten during COVID-19, Emily said technology knowledge has been a hurdle for everyone. Plus, there's that attention span. That's when Emily's boundless energy comes in.

"Some of them, yes, they're getting distracted and bored because they're on a virtual computer but it helps that I have a lot of energy. I'm up, I'm dancing. I'm doing whatever they're doing to just keep that engagement together," she said. Now back to her cliché claim. Emily says her career path was inspired by Linda Goldman, her kindergarten teacher at Sorrento Springs Elementary School in Chesterfield. "The way she did everything. I mean, even when she said your name. She wasn't above you. She knelt down and was with you, instead of above you, which I really respected. Now, I've done that with my own students. Whenever they come in, I'm not above them. I'm with them. I kneel down and we're on the same wavelength," Emily said.

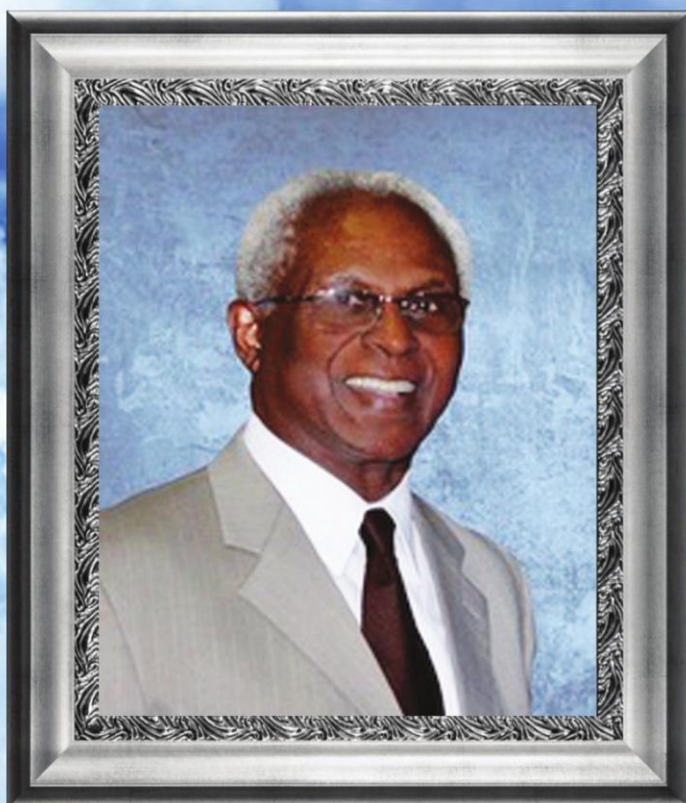
Twenty years later, Emily reconnected with Ms. Goldman. "When I graduated college, I actually called her... I told her that she was my role model." Emily said Ms. Goldman remembered her, her siblings and her parents.

One educator passing on the love of learning to the next generation.

In Loving Memory

DR. OTIS A. JACKSON

April 5, 1940 – May 25, 2020



Dr. Otis A. Jackson was born on April 5, 1940 in St. Louis, Missouri, the second child of five children born to Otis and Mabel Jackson (both deceased). He graduated from Vashon High School and received a Bachelor of Arts in Education with an emphasis in Mathematics at Harris Teachers College (now Harris Stowe State University).

Determined to better himself and his community through education, Dr. Jackson earned a Masters of Arts in Urban Affairs from St. Louis University and a Ph.D. in Educational Policy & Program Development from Washington University while serving as Program Executive at the Danforth Foundation. He then joined the University of Missouri - Columbia, as Assistant Provost of Academic Affairs. From there he was recruited to the executive team at INROADS.

Upon retiring as Executive Vice President for Corporate Planning & Development from INROADS, Dr. Jackson, driven by his love of teaching and mentoring, returned to the classroom teaching mathematics at Vashon High School and other schools in the St. Louis City Public School System and the Hazelwood School District.

Out of all of his accomplishments, Dr. Jackson drew his greatest fulfillment from being a husband, father, and grandfather (Papa). He also enjoyed teaching Bible study class at the Northside S.D.A. Church where he was a member and leader. He lost his courageous battle with COVID-19 on May 25, 2020.

He will lovingly be remembered by his wife, Brenda, children, Dr. Quinton Cancel (Kristea), daughter Gina Cancel-Jones (Shannon); his grandchildren, Iyanna, Quinton, II, Jackson, Olivia, and, Jamaul; his sisters Lois Miller and Ruth Bland; nephew Lamar Miller and niece Dorthea Bland, and many relatives and friends. His brother, Andrew and sister, Ouida preceded him in death.

In honor of his life and legacy in education, The Dr. Otis A. Jackson Scholarship Fund has been created to benefit college-bound African American graduates of Vashon High School. In lieu of flowers, the family requests contributions to the fund at, <http://youthbridge.org/the-otis-jackson-scholarship-fund/>.

North Middle retired math teacher

http://www.stlamerican.com/news/obituaries/in-loving-memory-of-dr-otis-a-jackson/article_ad4ca9a8-f3e7-11ea-9dec-077eaf661d9d.html

September 10, 2020