

Biography- Dana Vignale

For the past 18 years, I have taught and led in public, charter, and independent schools, in Miami, Puerto Rico and New York City, and now I am eager to bring my extensive and diverse experience and expertise to the Educational Advisory Board of Miami Shores.

After an inspirational experience in my tenth grade English classroom due to a phenomenal teacher, I chose to follow her footsteps and pursue teaching. After graduating from Florida International University, I began my career as a high school English teacher at South Miami Senior High. High school teacher by day and student at night, for the next three years, I finished my first Master's degree and taught university courses in the evenings and weekends. Excited to begin another chapter, I moved to Puerto Rico for three years to teach at a top-tier independent school. This led to my pursuit of a Master of Education in Private School Leadership at Teachers College at Columbia University. Three years of studying and beginning my administrative career in New York City, I was immersed in cutting-edge innovation and an incredible diversity of school choices and models.

Tired of the cold weather, I once again returned to South Florida as a charter school Principal, then Lead Teacher at MAST Academy @ Virginia Key launching the Cambridge Programs, a rigorous international education curriculum and instruction. From there, I moved into my current role as Executive Director in the Miami-Dade County Public Schools Office of Innovation and School Choice where I provide resources and support to ten well-intentioned charter schools. This unique role provides me with the opportunity to glean best practices from a diverse portfolio of schools and learn about the plethora of options available to parents—best practices and school choices that I am excited to bring to the community.

Yet my most important role is “MOM” of a spirited, vibrant, curious 5-year old. With every decision I make as an educator and every recommendation I make to a school begins with the critical question—What would I want for my own child?