



Principal Gerald J. Morrow

Chicago Public Schools – Dunbar Vocational Career Academy

- Over 30 years in Chicago Public Schools; 20 years as a school principal
- Teacher, dean, assistant principal, instructional leader/coach, and principal, as well as his faith-based training and experience has made him a tremendous asset to CPS and DVCA's leadership team.
- Led a major restoration campaign to rebuild Dunbar on the solid foundation of its former leaders and accomplished alumni.
- He is currently implementing his strategic vision to increase student enrollment
- develop partnerships with corporations,
- work with community organizations and stake holders and re-establish and expand vocational programming that is appealing to millennials and provide authentic certifications and career pathways.
- Under Morrow's leadership, DVCA has developed a new motto, "College and/or Trade Your Choice You Choose". This motto gives students the option to attend college, or to pursue industry certifications in their field of vocational training or both college prep and skill certification upon graduating.
- He also created the "Dunbar Strong" mantra which inspires his students to strive for excellence. He informs them that they have the best of both worlds and can become great whatever their choices are.
- His efforts to bring significant DVHS/DVCA alumni, community stakeholders and staff involvement to the table has led to a renewed effort to improve student achievement.
- Morrow's innovative leadership style has earned him status as a revered senior principal amongst his colleagues. He is known as a drum major for educational equity and instructional coaching.
- In short order, he took a school who had low enrollment and failing programs and turned it around during his first term as principal.
- Morrow's thorough understanding and use of data-based decision-making, and his commitment to ongoing positive messages of improvement with students, staff and community, are key factors in Dunbar's overall academic success.
- Morrow is an advocate of Social Emotional Learning (SEL). He has a thorough knowledge and understanding of SEL and has made it a priority at DVCA via developing partnerships with Depaul, Mercy Clinic, Youth Guidance, Let's Mentor and Bright Star Community Outreach (BSCO) who facilitate the University of Chicago Check and Connect Program and BSCO Trauma Center within the walls of Dunbar. He understands that some of his students are dealing with emotional crisis daily and there must be structures in place to provide coping strategies so students can feel emotionally safe and cared for in their learning environment in order for them to learn.

- Recently, Principal Morrow launched the Dunbar Aviation Program (DAP) which is the only program in CPS that has student pilots with actual flight hours. The DAP is a historical program that he restored under his leadership through external partners.
- His next project is to restore the music industry program at Dunbar in March of 2020 via the opening of its state-of-the-art music recording studio. I
- In addition, his outstanding leadership brought his students a once in a lifetime NBA All-Star Weekend experience in February of 2020. Dunbar hosted the NBA Legends group who engaged Dunbar students via mentoring students on financial literacy, playing a celebrity game with students and giving more than \$100,000 in scholarships to DVCA seniors.
- Morrow also worked with the NBA Wives organization who valued his insight about the needs of his student athletes and was awarded \$20,000 for the DVCA basketball program.
- To cap off the weekend he hosted the American Ballers Association and the owner of the Brooklyn Nets, billionaire Joseph Tsai who was highly impressed with his leadership and programs so much so he donated \$36K in game tickets for DVCA students athletes.
- Principal Morrow is a person of high integrity. He always put the students at Dunbar first. In all of my years working closely with Mr. Morrow, he has always done what is best for students and families.
- He has a strong track record of success and is a proven organizational and educational leader

Additional Successes

- Currently working with Southside NAACP, COAL, CPS Black Student Success Group, and other community organizations for educational equity in the African American community.
- Twenty-five years as a basketball official. Ten years as a Division 1 basketball official. Officiated in D3 and D2 National Basketball tournament