



Meet Mr. Finney!

Jason Finney is the Gifted and Talented Specialist for Forest Park Elementary. He is magna cum laude graduate of Lyon College, and has earned master's degrees in American Studies (Baylor University), Political Science (UA-Fayetteville) and Gifted Education (UA-Little Rock). Mr. Finney is in his 16th year at Forest Park and has been in the field of education for 26 years, starting as a Teach for America corps member teaching fourth grade in Newark, New Jersey. He was also the executive director of Teach for America-New Orleans for several years before returning to the classroom. Mr. Finney has been a National Board-Certified Educator for 18 years and has been selected teacher of the year at both Forest Park and Mann Magnet Middle School. He won the Bessie Moore Award for excellence in teaching economics, and in 2022 received the Gifted Educator Recognition Award for the state of Arkansas. This year, he was one of fifteen teachers nationwide selected as an educator-in-residence at the Henry Ford Museum in Dearborn, Michigan. He regularly provides professional development on topics such as gifted identification, early childhood enrichment, and STEM education.