



**MERIDIAN PUBLIC
CHARTER SCHOOL**

Mrs. Zenada Mahon-Belton, Principal, Middle School Campus

Zenada Mahon-Belton is a proud native New Yorker who began her career in education in 2003 as a middle school English teacher. Since then, she has served in a wide range of instructional and leadership roles, consistently leading with a deep commitment to equity, excellence, and student-centered transformation.

As a member of the inaugural cohort of D.C.'s New Leaders Emerging Leaders Program, Zenada earned national principal endorsement in 2012 through the New Leaders Aspiring Principals Program. During her tenure as a school leader, she led SEED DC from a 54.5% (Tier 2) rating in 2016 to a 66.1% (Tier 1) rating in 2017. At E.L. Haynes Middle School, she helped reduce suspension rates from 24% to just 3% through the implementation of restorative practices and a strong emphasis on relationships. Most recently, she led efforts that resulted in an 18 percentage point increase in Multilingual Learner (MLL) students meeting their growth targets, the highest recorded growth at the school in over a decade.



Zenada holds a Bachelor of Arts in English and Secondary Education from the State University of New York at New Paltz. She furthered her leadership development through Harvard University's Graduate School of Education with specialized training in school turnaround and earned an Executive Master's in Leadership from Georgetown University's McDonough School of Business.

Deeply committed to cultivating inclusive, high-performing school communities, Zenada brings a passion for academic excellence, holistic student development, and empowering both staff and students to reach their full potential.

In her free time, she enjoys building miniatures and spending time with her husband and daughter—and like any true New Yorker, she has strong opinions about pizza and bagels.