

# “Why I Teach”

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Region V Teacher of the Year

## Why I Teach?

I am a teacher because I learned the value of an excellent education from an early age. While neither of my parents was able to complete their formal education, they took correspondence courses and read at every opportunity. By their example, they taught me that an education could open doors and help me make my dreams come true.

Contributing to the success of a child, in school and in life, is one of the greatest rewards I can imagine. It is exciting to witness the individual growth of students. Each student is a unique individual and it is my responsibility to get to know the whole child and discover what motivates him/her. By carefully setting up the learning environment, I provide the framework for the student to freely explore, engage in active learning and perform to their greatest potential. An interested, supportive, invested and fully “present” teacher is vital to a child’s success. I have high expectations for my students and join them in activities that encourage them to experiment, observe, listen and discuss. After determining each student’s learning style, abilities and needs (including sensory needs and behavioral challenges), I use research-based strategies proven to activate the brain when planning classroom activities. I believe excellent teachers instruct with intention and take advantage of opportunities to continually improve upon their skills. As a result of collaborative opportunities, I have been able to share information gained in my continuing education pursuits with others.



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