

“Why I Teach”

by Lisa Taylor
Region VI Teacher of the Year

Why do I teach? I teach to inspire. I tell my 2nd graders they can be anything they want to be when they grow up and I sincerely mean it. I inspire them to follow their dreams. Our world is changing at a rapid pace. I'm preparing my students for jobs that don't even exist yet! So, how do I do that? I teach them to learn. I instill in them a desire to want to know more. I create a sense of urgency to become better readers so they can learn more about the world around them. I teach students to pose questions as scientists and seek answers. I seek to foster such a strong curiosity about the world that my students continue to ask questions and search for answers throughout their lives. I hope that the passion for learning I instill in my students will open doors for them in the future and take them to great places.

I love teaching and I truly can't imagine doing anything else! I love going to work every morning and watching my children walk in with bright, smiling faces. I like seeing the excitement when students discover new and surprising things. I love that the profession is a whirlwind of change. As a teacher, I am challenged to continuously evolve and improve. Teaching is a hands-on and minds-on job. Every day is new and exciting!

Learning is not something that takes place solely in the classroom. In fact, my students are only mine for a portion of the day and only for the duration of a school year, but I have the opportunity to impact their entire lives. It is my job to infuse an excitement for learning and show students how fun learning can be. I truly believe that if students are not having fun, they are not fully engaged in learning. Reading should be fun. Students should feel good about what they are accomplishing and they should be reading books that interest them. They should be reading comfortably on beanbags, reading with partners, listening to online stories on the computer, acting out readers' theater, and listening to read alouds. Math should be fun. Students should be using manipulatives and playing games to practice pyramids of Egypt. Doesn't that sound fun to you? Welcome to my classroom where learning is fun and every day is a different journey.



VAT  Y