

SATISFYING MY SOUL

By Shane Prairie

What a satisfying feeling coming home at the of a school day knowing that not only have I mentored and influenced young lives, but also striven to set a good example. Being a teacher is a profession in which I am proud. It gives me great satisfaction to encourage middle schoolers to spread their wings, set goals, and achieve success. It is also rewarding to have a genuine bond with adolescents that will shape the way their families, communities, and society as a whole will function.

The influence that teachers have over students is not to be underestimated. I have gained experience, both positive and negative, by enduring life. I feel quite comfortable sharing trials and tribulations with students and encourage them to do the same. I constantly stress that school is a place to learn about life. Kindness, compassion, and doing good by others are qualities that make a student well rounded. If pupils I teach can not only grasp educational concepts but also understand and practice those qualities then I consider my efforts to be successful.

Upon entering my classroom students are greeted with a large mural that states “Your ‘I will’ is more important than your ‘IQ’.” For the first few days we explore the meaning behind that mural and why it is prominently displayed. They all possess the tools that will allow them to succeed; they must simply find them and use them. I implore them to put forth effort and try. I could give students the answer they are looking for but that wouldn’t be nearly as gratifying as if they investigated and found it themselves. Nothing is as rewarding as seeing young faces light up when they find an elusive answer or solve a challenging puzzle. With tiny successes, confidence snowballs.

I believe that teaching is profession that involves personal commitment and dedication. I love interacting with students on a personal level outside of the classroom environment. I know, and fully accept, that along with my profession comes the responsibility to be a positive role model. While sponsoring school activities, such as gymnastics and rafting, I try to set a good example of how to conduct one’s self. I praise positive behavior and discuss negative behavior. I encourage students to join me in neighborhood clean up as well as charitable food drives, in hopes that doing good for others makes them feel good about themselves and the world they live in.

Venturing overseas would be the opportunity of a lifetime. The chance to absorb foreign cultures while enriching children’s lives would surely satisfy my soul. My wife and I are looking forward to spreading our enthusiasm throughout a school that demands caring, committed educators who are excited about teaching as well as learning.

Shane E. Prairie

PROFILE

- ❖ Certified Teacher of Middle Grades Social Studies and English with Two Years Experience Teaching Technology Education

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Middle Grades Technology Education Teacher Lexington, Virginia
Rockbridge Middle School August 1999- present

- ❖ Developed technology lesson plans that integrate all areas of curriculum;
- ❖ Managed and maintained state-of-the-art technology/computer lab;
- ❖ Worked with special education children and students with broad ability ranges;
- ❖ Coached award winning junior solar sprint competition team;
- ❖ Served as innovative team member on three separate grade levels;
- ❖ Established a long term technology agenda to successfully achieve superior school status accreditation

Student Teacher Vilas, North Carolina
Vilas Elementary School January 1999- May 1999

- ❖ Taught 6th grade Math, Science, English and Health;
- ❖ Fine tuned teaching strategies and classroom management skills;
- ❖ Created science lesson plan that enabled 100% of students to meet established state wide computer literacy standards;
- ❖ Established a successful student run recycling program;
- ❖ Mentored by Nationally Certified Middle School teacher with 20 years experience

SPECIAL SKILLS AND TRAINING

- ❖ Participated in student/ teacher national leadership conference in Orlando, Florida;
- ❖ Attended state solar conferences and workshops;
- ❖ Coached gymnastics and rafting at middle school level

ACHIEVEMENTS

- ❖ Elected to represent faculty at all superintendent's forums;
- ❖ Selected to make county wide presentation on classroom implementation of new technology;
- ❖ Member of International Education Honor Society, Kappa Delta Pi;
- ❖ Chancellor's List: Fall 1997, Fall 1998, Spring 1999;
- ❖ Dean's List: Spring 1998, Summer 1998, Summer 1999;

- ❖ Received student teacher of the year award in 1999

EDUCATION

Appalachian State University

Boone, North Carolina
1996-1999

- ❖ Earned Bachelors of Science in Middle Grades Education
- ❖ Graduated Cum Laude

CERTIFICATION

The State of North Carolina Department of Education
Middle Grades English and Social Studies

LISENCURE

The State of Virginia Department of Education

REFERENCES

- ❖ **Russell Fleshman**
Principal at Rockbridge Middle School
1200 Sterrett Rd
Fairfield, Virginia 24435
(540) 348-5455
- ❖ **Patsy Dickerson**
Eighth Grade Team Leader /Teacher
46 Walkers Creek Rd.
Rockbridge Baths, Virginia 2447
(540) 348-1294
- ❖ **Sally Meeth**
Sixth Grade Teacher /Team Leader
1200 Sterrett Rd.
Fairfield, Virginia 24435
(540) 348-5455

PERSONAL

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