

Amanda Moffett is a fifth-grade teacher at Forest View Elementary. She has been teaching for 9 years. Amanda grew up in Burlington,NC.

When did you know you wanted to become a teacher and what influenced you to make that choice? Was there something else you considered doing before deciding to teach?

I knew I wanted to teach in 3rd grade. I've always loved learning and helping others.

What kind of student were you? Was there anything that was incredibly difficult for you to learn?

I worked hard and wanted to do well. I loved, and still love, history. Math was my weakest subject, especially in high school. I often stayed behind and asked my teachers for additional help. In college, I learned a lot of ways to help students who struggle in math, and now it's my favorite subject to teach!

What are some of the things you love about teaching?

I love the kids I work with and I enjoy watching them grow academically and socially. I also love that every day has a different set of challenges- it keeps things interesting. As a teacher, I get to be creative and collaborative.

What do you hope your average student would say when asked to describe you?

I care about them as an individual, not just as a learner. I believe that they can be successful.

What do you actually think your average student would say when asked to describe you?

My lessons are fun. I'm organized and a little strict.

What are some of the difficult parts of your job you wish people outside of the profession could understand a little better?

Teaching requires an incredible amount of intentionality! I have to deliver content that is tailored to each student's needs. This is difficult considering that no two learners are the same, and that there are so many academic levels present in a classroom. I spend a great deal of time researching instructional practices, collaborating with colleagues, and creating unique materials.

We all had our ideas for what teaching would be like before we started. How is the idea you had of what teaching is like different from the actual reality of teaching?

I didn't realize how much time teachers spend working outside of the school day. Since most of our day is spent with the kids, lesson planning, creating, and grading tends to take place before or after school...and on the weekends :).

Who was your favorite teacher while you were a student?

Ms. Smith, my third-grade teacher. She was an excellent storyteller and she came to all of my sporting events. I could tell that she really cared about me.

If you had the chance to tell them what their impact was on your life, what you would want to say to them the most?

I saw her recently! I told her that she was one of the many reasons that I became a teacher.

Who is your favorite coworker, or possibly, who do you look at and say, "Wow, they are such a fantastic teacher."? What is it about them that makes them stand out to you?

The teachers who are always trying to improve stand out to me.

At the end of the day, teaching is really hard. In order to keep coming back, we all have to have something we can hang our hat on. What keeps you coming back?

The kids :)

If you could tell your students what you really feel about them, without any chance for them to respond or ruin the moment, what would you tell them?

I would tell them that I lose sleep over them! I truly do want what's best for them.

If you could talk to a teacher starting out. Just getting ready to take over their first classroom. What wisdom would you impart to them?

I would encourage them to reach out for help if needed, and to take care of themselves.

Forest View is very fortunate to have such a dynamic and caring teacher. Mrs. Moffett cares so much about her students and it shows in everything she does. Thank you for letting us get to know you a little better Mrs. Moffett!