



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023
worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

“I was inspired to become a teacher by my teachers”. Annie Bailey

What subjects/ages do you teach?

In 2023, I teach Year 11 Chemistry and also work as part of the Educational Support Team for a variety of Year 9 classes across different subject areas.

I have been teaching for approximately 25 years and have been at Chancellor State College for about eight years.

What inspired you to become a teacher, and how has your journey in education evolved over the years?

I was inspired to become a teacher by two of my teachers. Early on, my Year 4 teacher, Mrs Cavey, absolutely loved words and was particularly passionate about Latin and Greek roots, making us write out, many times, the derivations and meaning of quite complex, and sometimes scientific, words.

Later, it was my Senior Chemistry teacher, Mr Willis, who introduced me into the fascinating world of Chemistry. Both of these teachers used 'old school' teaching techniques and clearly enjoyed teaching (and learning). Looking back now, my primary and secondary schools weren't really well resourced, but it was the teachers themselves that made the learning happen.

Do you have any memorable teaching moments or experience that had a significant impact on your teaching career?

In a teaching career of over 25 years, there have been many memorable moments as I have taught thousands of students (and interacted with their parents too). Professionally, the highlight of my career was working for two years within Education Queensland's "Science Spark" project as a Primary Science Facilitator. This role allowed me to work, within a team of fabulous people, in a number of different primary schools, supporting staff and students to embrace Science learning and engagement. Personally, there have been so many memorable moments, including heartfelt appreciation from students and parents in their journey through secondary education. It's quite funny when, years later, I end up teaching my students' children too as that makes me laugh when I think back to what the now-parents were like as students.

How do you stay motivated and maintain your passion for teaching?

I keep motivated by reading, reading and reading. I love learning and doing old things in new ways as well as new things in old ways. I constantly reflect and think about how to do things better or differently.

Do you have any advice, quotes or words of wisdom to share with prospective teachers about becoming a teacher or for students about school life?

I love teaching, but if I wasn't a teacher I would be an author, editor or some sort of performer (as I enjoy music, drama, arts and sarcasm/comedy).