



World Teachers' Day QLD

Friday 27th October 2023
worldteachersday.com.au

Teaching – where the future begins

“Knowledge is Power”. Tania Waterman

What subjects/ages do you teach?

Year 7-12 English, Humanities Years 7-10 and I have been teaching at Chancellor State College for nine years.

What do you like about teaching at CSC?

I love being able to teach my class in creative ways that engages them and witness their growth of understanding and skills.

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

I have always loved being around children and helping others. My greatest passion is knowing that State Education is there for everyone. I love to see everyone shine in their own unique ways and teaching has afforded me this opportunity. I believe education is an essential part of our lives and I want to impart the enjoyment and opportunities that learning can bring in so many ways – that is my inspiration.

After initially starting as a Secondary Teacher of English and Humanities, I was fortunate to be part of a team that implemented a cross-curriculum laptop program that was one of the first in QLD at the time (it was a long time ago). Time and technology have certainly seen changes with students all using laptops in every subject, every day now.

I then studied to become a P-3 teacher which sees me collaborate at with our Primary Campus in English and Literacy. I am always excited to visit and see the children learning and interacting.

I am now Head of Department for Junior Secondary English and Literacy, and we have a new curriculum to implement. I also enjoy influencing and working with new teachers and pre-service teachers. Tutoring at the University in the Faculty of Education has given me more incredible experience.

Becoming an English Head of Department is the perfect mix of teaching in the classroom, and influencing and developing the delivery of the curriculum with a team of teachers and other schools.

There are so many opportunities within our school and education that it is hard to say that just one thing inspires me, as I see inspiration in so many ways, every day.

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

One year I won the 'My Favourite Teacher' award promoted by a local newspaper; I had an evening celebration to attend with the Premier at Parliament House along with other awardees. The comments from my students who nominated me were wonderful and I knew I had made a difference. It was very special.

Ultimately, everyday shapes my career and is memorable as I learn just as much as the students do and this makes me better at my job.

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

I have a good work life balance, family and other interests, but I have been fortunate to have been able to continue learning and trying new things in education which is what has kept me motivated. Education is also always evolving. I meet new and wonderful students each year and we work together which keeps teaching exciting.

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?

For students, know that pathways are endless as long as you are willing to find a way and persist. Try to find one thing a day that was interesting or positive from school. For prospective teachers, you will still be learning and growing 40 years from now.