

My name is Jada Neely. I grew up in Michigan and have many fond memories of adventures at Lake Michigan, camping with family and exploring in the woods. I graduated from Southern Adventist University with a degree in Elementary Education and hold both state and denominational certifications.

In 1994, I began my career teaching grades 2nd-5th in the South Asia-Pacific Division at Guam Adventist Academy. In 1999, my husband and I moved to Oregon where I began teaching first grade at Portland Adventist Elementary School. My husband, Anthony, and I have two girls, Maya and Mikayla. I love the beauty of the Pacific Northwest and enjoy biking and hiking with my family. Some of my other interests are reading, doing art projects and exploring nature.

My Classroom Philosophy:

If you could take a peek at the happenings of my class, some of the things you would see are: morning worships that include children praying together in a community prayer, groups of students working together to research an animal or insect, a classroom temporarily transformed for “Camp Read a Lot” in honor of Dr. Seuss and Read Across America, live insect larvae or tadpoles—so children can experience metamorphosis first hand and nature walks to experience the wonders of God’s creation.



Why I choose to work in Christian Education:

As a child, I dreamed of going into an occupation that would allow me to share the love of Jesus with others. Fortunately, I had a father who was a dedicated teacher. Through much prayer, along with the influence of my father, I decided to become an elementary teacher. I love spending time with children, helping them learn and grow each day. I also love being able to share with them the love of Christ. It’s a joy to help students discover their God-given talents and to encourage them to use these gifts to be a blessing to others. In Jeremiah 29:11 it says, “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” I consider it an honor to have a part in the lives of my students and it is my goal to help them see God’s plan for each of them.

