

My name is Linda Waagen. My career has spanned four states (coast to coast!), 10 grade levels and several decades. In addition to teaching, I have coached girls' basketball, volleyball and been yearbook advisor. I did not originally plan to be a teacher, getting a BS in Behavioral Sciences from Southern Adventist University. However, within two years of graduating, I returned to school after a very clear calling into the teaching profession. I received my Masters in Elementary Education with a Math and Science emphasis from Old Dominion University in 1994. While getting my certification and having no thought of teaching in Adventist school I received a phone call that would change my life: would I consider being the 1st-4th grade teacher in a two-teacher school in desperate need? My answer has made all the difference, YES!!! As a result, all of my teaching has been in the Seventh-day Adventist school system.

I have been teaching at PAES since 2000, when I joined the staff as a 6th grade classroom teacher. A year later I became the Middle School Social Studies teacher, a position I have held since then. As with all of the PAES Middle School teachers, I also teach Bible, Math and Reading.

I model life-long learning—attending educator workshops or conventions each year. In 2009 I was selected as a Fulbright Scholar and participated in a 30-day study of the Ottoman Empire in Turkey and the Balkan States. In 2014 I was selected as an Environmental Education cohort to work collaboratively with teachers in Jordan. Travel is, in my opinion, the greatest educational experience one can have. I have “eaten or slept” in all 50 states (no, airports don't count), in 20 countries and on 5 continents. My greatest desire is to visit Great Britain and Tanzania and be able to go horseback riding in each location.

I am active in Music and Women's Ministry at Rockwood Adventist Church. At home, I enjoy raising, training and showing Arabian horses. I am currently the President of a local Arabian horse club. When not horsing around or traveling, I enjoy photography, gardening and hiking. I am married to Jim Scholz, who works as a Medical Technologist.

My Classroom Philosophy:

Education involves the whole person—mental, physical and spiritual. Important learning experiences in my classroom are simulations, role play, group activities and presentations as these activities give students the opportunity to really engage with their learning. For my part, I participate in programs outside of school to have authentic learning experiences with real world application. I am committed to sharing Jesus with my students and I believe that all students want to learn. The challenge is to help them find the joy of learning and success within their own learning styles. One of my passions is outdoor education. I enjoy sharing outdoor school with my students because it builds relationships and allows me to get to know my students in a non-school environment—nature, God's first “book”. I believe in having fun and making learning as interesting as possible so it will stick.



Why I choose to work in Christian Education:

There was a time when I wondered if teaching was really what I should be doing with my life. I decided to travel alone that summer, away from places I would normally go to. This led to me to Korea, Japan and Singapore. While on a layover in Japan I was visiting a Shinto shrine soaking in the different culture, sounds and smells when a group of children ran up to me and asked, “May we practice our English with you?” The next two hours were spent talking with the students and their teacher; as I made my way back to my hotel, I realized that God was telling me that being a teacher was who I was, not just something I did.

