

My name is Amber Ballesteros and I am blessed to have the opportunity of touching children's lives on a daily basis. I have attended Public School all of my life and first experienced Christian education in college. I attended and graduated from Southern Adventist University with a B.A Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Science. I am an east coast girl of 23 years and through many doors opening, I have found myself in the great state of Oregon and could not be any happier.

Growing up, I lived in seven different states along the east coast and have felt that those moves have contributed to who I am today. I have met many different people, experienced many places, and have learned a lot along the way. Even though I am more than 3,000 miles away from my family, they are everything to me. I am extremely close to both my parents and my two brothers. I am Dominican and Colombian, and am very passionate about my culture and always try to teach about other people and places around the world, and how we are all very similar, yet unique. When I am not teaching you can usually find me cooking, hiking, reading, playing with my beagle (Daisy) or getting really into DIY projects and pretending I'm on HGTV.

My Classroom Philosophy:

I believe that is it my job to not only instill a wonderful love for learning in my students, but also a wonderful love of Jesus. Being in third grade, students are expected to start being a little more responsible and start creating habits that they will maintain for the rest of their lives. Due to this, a lot of my teachings are based around faith. Faith not only in Jesus, but also in yourself. I want each one of my students to not only believe they can achieve their goals, but know that they will with the help of others and with Jesus in their lives. In my classroom, I like to create a sense of community because I believe that creating connections and relationships help to incite spiritual and academic growth. When a child feels safe and welcomed in a classroom, they are better able to succeed and become the amazing children they are meant to be. If you ever want to see my classroom philosophy in motion, always feel free to stop by my classroom.



Why I choose to work in Christian Education:

In all honesty, Christian Education actually chose me. When I first attended Southern Adventist University, I knew that I wanted to help people and work with kids. Because of this I decided to study nursing in hope to one day become a pediatric nurse. After a year and a half, I started to feel an impression in my heart that maybe I was not doing what I was meant to do and decided to return home and switch to a Public University. After a lot of prayer, faith and help from my family, I decided to switch to education and return to pursue a degree at an Adventist institution. Ever since I attended my first introduction to education class, I have been in love with it. Growing up in public school I was never in an environment where I could freely talk about the my beliefs or Jesus's Love. The fact that I have an opportunity everyday to share God's Word with my students is one of the biggest blessings I have received in my life. When I first graduated, I applied for jobs all along the east coast and on a whim decided to apply for one position in Oregon, of all places. Low and behold, when God has a plan for you, you have to be willing to abide and be open to receive the blessings he has in store for you. This position, this school, and all the doors that have led to me being here have all have been a blessing and would not have wanted it any other way. As my favorite bible verse says, " Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In ALL your ways remember him and he will make your path smooth and straight" Proverbs 3:5-6