

My Name is Linda Waagen

My career has spanned four states, coast to coast, and ten grade levels. I did not plan to be a teacher, getting a BS in Behavioral Sciences from Southern Adventist University. But two years after graduating, I returned to school, receiving my Masters in Elementary Education with a Math and Science emphasis from Old Dominion University in 1994. All of my teaching has been in Adventist education.

I have been teaching at PAES since 2000 as a 6th grade classroom teacher. I am the Middle School Social Studies teacher and I also teach Bible, Math and Reading. I've also coached girls' basketball, volleyball and been yearbook advisor.

A life-long learner, I attend educator workshops 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 and worked collaboratively with teachers in Jordan. I feel travel is a great educational experience. I have eaten or slept in all 50 states (airports don't count), in 20 countries and on five continents.

I am active in music and Women's Ministry at Rockwood Adventist Church. I raise, train and show Arabian horses. I also 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. I teach using simulations, group activities and presentations as these engage students with their learning. I am also committed to sharing Jesus with my students. One of my passions is outdoor education. Nature is God's first book. Sharing outdoor school with my students allows me to get to know them in a non-school environment. 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 I wondered if teaching was really what I should be doing. While traveling alone over that summer, I visited a Shinto shrine in Japan. A group of children ran up to me and asked, "May we practice our English with you?" I spent the next two hours talking with them! As I walked back to my hotel, I realized that God was telling me that being a teacher was who I was, not just something I did.

