

AWLA Featured Member

Lisa McFadden Garrison

Vestavia Hills High School



My favorite teaching moment is ... when I see a student make the leap to try to communicate & they realize that communication does not mean perfection. I took a group of students to Costa Rica this past spring. It was amazing to see what they could do once they were in an immersion situation. My favorite quote from one of the students was, "I can really speak Spanish and other people can understand me...not just my teachers! I didn't say everything perfectly but they still understood what I was saying!"

I'm working on ... finding balance. Being a teacher, there is never a true end to all that needs to get done. There is a time when you need to just stop and understand that it is ok to leave it for tomorrow.

I can't do without ...my morning coffee and creamer. I call it my morning elixir! J It makes everything a little better.

I'm currently addicted to ...binge watching Netflix Spanish language series' like Ministerio del tiempo & Tiempos de guerra.

I love teaching because you get to make lasting connections with people. What a gift it is to help young people see the world through the eyes of another culture and help them realize the endless possibilities in front of them. Best..job...ever!

I find joy ...in my family and spending time with them. My children are growing up so quickly and I know the time is coming soon when they will be off to pursue their own dreams. I value every moment we get to spend together.

Advice for a new teacher... My advice for a new teacher would be to not be afraid to let your students see you as human. Connect with your students and let them know you value them and are there by their side to help them along the way. Do not isolate yourself from your colleagues because you think you have so much to get done. Create connections and supports within your school, within your discipline and professional organizations. No one is perfect. Be humble and willing to learn and try new things with your students. Celebrate successes and embraces "failures" as an opportunity to grow. Never stop learning and growing as a teacher. You have been given a gift, treasure it, and use it well.