

Meet our Back to School AWLA Featured Member Sonia Young

What do you teach and where? I teach Spanish 1, 2, 3, 4 and AP in the classroom face to face as well as Spanish 1, 2, 3 and 4 online/virtual/blended. I teach face to face and virtual/blended at Athens High School, online with Athens Renaissance and online ACCESS.

Favorite teaching moment is ...when I see the light bulb moment, when I see the student make the connections themselves and they are able to understand and apply what they have learned. Then when they begin trying to speak the language even when it is not for a grade.

I'm working on ... continuously learning and improving on how to reach all students to be the most they can be and increasing the importance of language learning in the lower grades. Our Spanish Club and Spanish Honor Society started an elementary Spanish Club at our Fine Arts Academy two years ago, where they teach the club members some basic Spanish words and phrases and inspire them to want to know more about the Spanish language and culture. They also are involved in an after-school program that helps elementary students with reading and math. Many times, they are able to use their Spanish skills when the students are not proficient in

I'm currently addicted to ... partner collaboration and open ended project-based assignments in my classes. I like to give the basic requirements but let the students determine where the project will lead them.

I find joy ... every day in everything. I can't do without ...the support of my husband and family and of course all the fabulous students.

I'm most creative ... when I am given new strategies and allowed the opportunity to tweak them to benefit the needs of the students to enhance their achievement.

I admire ... all the teachers that hang in there when things get tough and all those students that give it all they have even if the work is hard.

I love teaching because... it allows me to witness all the accomplishments that my students have throughout their high school career and even into their college years and life after college.

Advice for a new teacher...take it one day at a time, listen to advice from experienced educators, but most of all, enjoy and love what you are doing.

