

Chicken Soup

for

Friendswood ISD

Last week, I was sitting at my desk when one of my students came and sat next to me. She was working on the assignment for the day and she had been coming and sitting at the table next to me during class for the last couple of days. The room was loud, but in an organized chaos kind of way. The boys at the table in front of me were off-task laughing with each other, I had asked them to do their assignment a couple of times. After the third time, the sweet girl that was sitting with me said “Why do you do this? I could never be a teacher.” I just laughed and told her this is the job I am meant to do. She went back to her assignment, and I thought about the question she just asked. Why do I do this? Why do I teach? I thought of all the reasons why I willingly choose to hang out with 14-year-olds all day.

So I came up with a list of my “whys” and thought I would share them with you all. I love the little moments where we sit and chat about their lives. Or when a former student comes by just to say hi. Or when the group of girls that eat lunch in my room giggle about their day and make TikToks (which I actively avoid being in the background of). Or the stack of letters and notes I have collected over the years from my students. Or when I am in the hall between classes and the current and former students wave at me as they walk with their groups of friends. Or when a student who loves animals and watches more nature documentaries than me, takes a moment to teach the class some fun animal facts. These small joys among the chaos are why I continue to teach.

I could probably give you many more “whys” but the simple answer is that I love doing life with these kids. Being able to sit with them through their hard times and celebrate with them during their good times! So next time my class is chaotic, and the sweet, quiet student asks me why I teach, I have a list of reasons ready to share with them.

-Madeleine LeBoeuf, FHS Science Teacher