

# Shannon Carpenter - Student Teaching Statement

My goal as a future educator has always been to help ready students for their future lives and learning needs. When my parents enrolled me in Kindergarten, my mom had me go to the school where she taught. I spent countless hours watching her create lesson activities that she can adapt for all students. She still teaches today, and she is always very impressed at how quickly I pick up a teaching task or concepts for my college classes and experiences during my practicums. I want to become an educator, because I want to add to the educational experiences that can better my students in school and outside of school.

As a child, I remember playing school, and how I always wanted to play the teacher role. I have always been fascinated by my mother's hard work and effort she put into work as a teacher. This fascination is how I have known I wanted to be a teacher. I want a career that I can pour myself into and have a positive outcome. These positive outcomes could be as little as watching my students' knowledge grow throughout their time in the classroom with me. It could be as small as reigniting a spark for the arts or another subject, or it could be the smiles they share while in my class.

Throughout the past year and a half, I have learned many instructional practices and classroom management strategies. Many of the instructional methods and classroom management strategies go hand in hand when it comes to the classroom environment that I want to create and maintain. Through my time at college, I have been able to practice many of the management strategies I learned about in my college courses. Another experience that taught me a lot was how teachers respond when the method they are using does not fit their students. The teacher tried several different strategies, observed students' reactions, and asked them if this strategy worked or did not work. I hope to adjust my strategy practices and use this experience to adapt to my future students' needs.

Being part of the elementary education department has been a very valuable experience. I have learned how to create lesson plans and integrate subjects into others to enhance students' learning. I enjoy seeing how my peers and mentors teach. Observing has given me a chance to better my abilities as a future educator by learning from other educators. More recently, I have seen and participated in virtual classroom models. I have been fortunate enough to use Zoom, Blackboard, Google Hangouts, Canvas, Flipgrid, and Microsoft OneNote in my college courses. I have used kid-friendly apps to create activities to integrate technology into my lesson planning. I believe that technology can be beneficial for use in the classroom. Rather than forbidding technology in class, students should have time when it's appropriate to have the technology to use as a tool for classwork. I look forward to using technology in my future classroom.

Outside of my college work, I have spent a lot of time tutoring my two younger siblings. They are 19 and 16 years of age; however, I started helping them when they were 12 and 9 years old. They both struggled with science and math subjects throughout their times in school. Though I am always happy to help at home, I have also volunteered at my mother's school. I have helped in several classrooms by working one-on-one and in small groups. Most of the one-on-one help was for students who needed specific help while doing an assignment. The small groups were set on focused classwork help and practice through repetition. These experiences have only furthered my desire to become an educator and prepared me for the challenges and successes I will face as an educator.