

## My Name is Amber Ballesteros

... and I am blessed to have the opportunity of touching children's lives on a daily basis. I attended public school all of my life and first experienced Christian education in college. I attended and graduated from Southern Adventist University with a B.A. Degree in Elementary Education with an emphasis in Science. I am an East Coast girl of over 20 years and through many doors opening, I have found myself in the great state of Oregon. Growing up, I lived in seven different states and those moves contributed to who I am today. Even though I am more than 3,000 miles away from my family, they are everything to me. I am extremely close to both my parents and my two brothers. I am Dominican and Colombian, and am passionate about my culture. I try to teach about other people and places around the world, and how we are all very similar, yet unique. When I'm not teaching you can find me cooking, hiking, reading, playing with my beagle (Daisy) or getting really into DIY projects and pretending I'm on HGTV.

## My Classroom Philosophy

I believe my job is not only to instill a wonderful love of learning in my students, but also a wonderful love of Jesus. In third grade, students are expected to start being a little more responsible and to start creating habits that they will maintain for the rest of their lives. Due to this, a lot of my teachings are based around faith. Faith not only in Jesus, but also in yourself. I want each one of my students to not only believe they can achieve their goals, but know that they will with the help of others and with Jesus in their lives. In my classroom, I like to create a sense of community because I believe that creating connections and relationships will help to incite spiritual and academic growth. When a child feels safe and welcomed in a classroom, he/she is better able to succeed and become the amazing person he/she are meant to be. If you ever want to see my classroom philosophy in motion, always feel free to stop by my classroom.



## Why I Choose to Work in Christian Education

In all honesty, it chose me. When I started college at Southern Adventist University, I knew I wanted to help people and work with kids so I planned to become a pediatric nurse. After a year and a half, I felt that I was not doing what I was meant to do. I returned home and switched to a public university. After a lot of prayer, faith and help from my family, I decided to study education. I returned to Southern Adventist University and since my first Introduction to Education class, I have been in love with Elementary Education! Growing up in public school I was never in an environment where I could freely talk about Jesus' Love. The fact that I have an opportunity every day to share God's Word with my students is one of the biggest blessings I have received in my life. When I first graduated, I applied for jobs all along the East Coast and on a whim decided to apply for one position in Oregon, of all places. This position, this school, and all the opened doors that led to bring me here have been blessings. As my favorite Bible verse says, "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding. In ALL your ways remember Him and He will make your path smooth and straight" Proverbs 3:5-6