

Alexis Payne

Volunteer Experience and Reasons for Teaching

Many job opportunities and volunteer work has helped shape my interest in becoming a teacher. I have had a lot of experience working with students. I realized when I was in high school that I enjoyed working with kids, and decided to make this my career. This decision has helped me map out my education to meet my goals. Working with different groups of kids has also helped me narrow my focus as to what age group to work with. I have worked with middle and high school students as well as preschoolers, but I didn't see myself teaching those areas long term. I volunteered in a few different elementary schools which helped me figure out that it was a good fit. I also have nephews who I have helped with their school work. During the Covid-19 pandemic I helped nephews with their online schooling. Many class meetings, study material and assignments were online which was confusing. I was worried about them falling behind and did this a few times a week until they understood the information. It was stressful, but helped them catch up in class. My volunteer work was a big determining factor in deciding to become a teacher.

The people that I worked with also impacted my decision to teach. During my first time volunteering in a classroom I worked with many staff members and students who were supportive and encouraging. This created a good work environment. Sometimes creating activities and lessons was challenging, but I felt good about the outcome and how it helped my kids. Seeing them learn and grow in different ways made me happy and I decided that I wanted to do this more. The people who I worked with helped influence my decision to teach.

