

# Teacher

By: Maegan Zell



***“To teach is to touch a life forever.”***

*-Anonymous*

# Introduction

Albert Einstein once said, "It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge." This quote captures my feelings about education and explains why I want to become an elementary school teacher. Being a teacher would allow me to work with children and plan creative and fun ways for them to learn and grow. I really like working with kids and think my experience volunteering, nannying, tutoring, and being a camp counselor will help me be a good teacher. I also think I will be able to put my organization and communication skills to good use in a classroom someday.



*Teachers get to work with children and make a difference in their lives.*

# Description

Most people have been a student and have had several teachers throughout their lives, but, what does a teacher actually do? Educators help children understand general school subjects like reading, writing, math, science, social studies and much more. Teachers also help students learn study habits, practice social skills and how to use technology. When I become a teacher I think I will spend a lot of time developing and planning lessons about curriculum, or subjects of study, to help students understand and practice different topics and skills. As a teacher I will need to be able to deliver instruction in a clear way and to answer questions students may have. Teachers also have to grade a lot of student work. They have to analyze the assignments and scores to determine grades.



*A teacher needs to know about many different subjects in order to help students understand.*

# Training and Education

Teachers need a lot of training to learn what it takes to be an educator. All 50 states require a Bachelor's degree from a four year college or university. Another requirement is a teacher preparation program which usually includes student teaching experience. All teachers must also take a certification test and obtain a license. Furthermore, teachers are often encouraged to get a second degree, called a master's degree, which demonstrates expertise in a specific field of study. After all that work, and a person is hired as a teacher, the learning is never done. Ongoing continuing education courses are required of many teachers so they can stay current on the ever changing needs of students. If you think you may want to be a teacher someday, you don't need to wait. The road to being a teacher can begin long before college. To help build background high school students should take classes in child development, writing, technology, math, and sociology just to start. Seeking out opportunities to volunteer and work with children would also be a good way to prepare.



*Teachers require a lot of training and education to be good at what they do in the classroom.*

# Work Environment

If you guessed you would find a teacher working in a school you would be right. Most traditional school buildings consist of numerous classrooms for different ages and grades. A teacher spends most of their time in their own classroom. However, they may also utilize other learning spaces such as a library, playground, or computer lab. Occasionally teachers take their classes on field trips out into the community and do their teaching on the go. Within the teaching environment educators need to be comfortable using several tools to enhance their instruction. Technology, including computers, iPads, document cameras, projectors, apps, internet, email and software programs are used frequently. While much of a teacher's time is spent with students or planning individually, perhaps the most valuable resource teachers have is time spent collaborating with other teachers on grade level teams and school committees.



*A teacher's classroom is their home away from home.*



# Salary, Growth, Job Outlook

As long as there are children in the world there will always be a demand for teachers. In the state of Oregon, teaching jobs are particularly needed and expected to experience growth. In fact, Oregon ranks 9th out of the top 10 states expected to see growth for teaching jobs from 2012-2022. Oregon's annual teaching job growth is increasing at a rate of 9.9%, with nearly 5,000 job openings per year. A teacher's salary, or annual earnings, can range from approximately \$35,000 to \$85,000 per year. Teachers can earn more if they decide to take on additional leadership positions, like becoming an administrator, or principal. Additional special endorsements in Literacy or English as a second language, could also increase a teacher's income. Advancement in the field of education usually requires more training and school.



*As long as there are children, there will be a need for teachers.*

# Conclusion

After researching all it means to be a teacher, I definitely want to pursue a future as an educator. It would be a constant challenge to keep up with the ever changing needs of students, and every day would bring something new. Furthermore, there are certainly professions that earn more, and some jobs might even be easier. However, the opportunity to make a difference and impact the lives of children forever, would be an honor to be proud of.



*"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning."  
-Brad Henry*

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