

Reasons Two Amazing Teachers Choose Ogden!!!

A while back a story was shared about a man that drove into the mountains to cut firewood for the upcoming winter. While in the woods it began to snow and his truck became stuck. After some thought of how to get his truck out he came to the conclusion that he needed to do what he was there to do, fill his truck with firewood. The weight of the wood allowed his two-wheel drive truck to obtain the necessary traction he need to get unstuck and drive home.

This is how I view my job at Ogden High School. We have a school full of kids and each one of them has the potential to succeed and become whatever they want to become. All they simply need is someone who will push them (*apply some weight*), because it might not happen at home. They need someone who is willing to help them get traction down the path of success. In my case I want to see all my students complete our medical career courses which will help provide them with the tools they need to be successful at the next level, in my case a medical professional.

I will always push myself to be better, and I expect the same from my students. I want them to know education is the key to a better life. Working in the Ogden District challenges me to be a better teacher because our students have such diverse circumstances. I feel the district has made a huge effort to give me the tools I need to better prepare me and my students. This enables me to help them load their truck and gain the traction needed to achieve their goals and be successful in life.

Why I chose Ogden.....**OUR AWESOME KIDS**



Clay Christensen has taught at Ogden High for 11 years. He lives in Tremonton and is a produce farmer and a super fan of the Utah State University.

To begin with, I knew Ogden was the district for me. This was the only district I applied with, had one interview and got the job! I knew I was going where I was needed most. I had many people tell me I was crazy, but those who spoke never understood the reasoning behind my choice.

Understanding the demographics and student population, our students are generally expected not to succeed through the eyes of the world. Statistically speaking, the odds are stacked against them. Growing up, I was one of these students. I was that child who came from an extremely broken home, raised by a single, often absent mother, living in poverty, struggling with addiction. I often found myself taking on the parent role and dealing with the stresses of life way before I was ready. Facing this at home, school became my “out,” school was my time away. Given my home environment, I often depended on my teachers not only for instruction, but also to help guide me along the way in social and life skills. There were teachers who were patient, kind and loving. There were also those who knew the home I came from and didn’t want to deal with me. They had given up on me before I had even walked through their classroom door.

In high school, one teacher in particular that that took me under his wing after I decided that I was going to drop out. Life just got to be too much. I moved out on my own when I was 17 on and was trying to pay all my bills. At the time, I felt a full-time job and bringing in that few extra hundred dollars a month would make life so much easier. However, still being a teenager, I wasn’t looking at the longevity of the situation. This is when my teacher took it upon himself to help me succeed. He noticed I wasn’t attending class and quickly became familiarized with my situation. He tracked me down and told me I was coming back. He told me he expected me to succeed because I was more than capable of doing so and I was going to give myself and my future family more than I had. This teacher went in and worked with the counselors to get me a schedule, figured out how I could make up all my missing credit, and he helped me graduate high school. He is the reason I went to college and had the confidence I needed to enroll. He is the reason I became a teacher, and why I chose to work in Ogden with the student base we have.

My teacher showed me it’s not necessarily the content you teach, but the rapport you build and the way you make your students feel. This teacher reminded me of my self-worth and the future I deserved. I believe sometimes that’s all our students need; is to know their self-worth.



Erin Bishop is in her second year of teaching at Taylor Canyon Elementary School.