

Howdy,

My name is Jennifer Matthews. I will be the student-teacher for both Mr. Adams and Mr. Albert this semester. I am currently a student at Texas State University pursuing a Master's in the field of Agriculture Education. I received my undergraduate degree from Texas A&M University in the field of Horticulture. I am from Luling, which is considered the Watermelon capital of Texas. My family lives on a hobby farm with Black Angus cattle and it has been in the family for more than 60 years. In Junior high and High school I was a part of 4-H and raised goats, pigs, and chickens as well as participated in the food and nutrition competitions.

A few things that keep me entertained while I am taking a break from school are pretty much all outdoor activities. I love to be adventurous and try new things, like joining a jitter/swing dance class. Doing any kind of sporting activity always pleases and excites me, either watching it live or competing in it.

I believe that I excel in being able to connect and teach children through silly enthusiasm. My mother is a teacher and I remember many crazy things she did to teach us about science in 7<sup>th</sup> grade that still stick with me because she had an intriguing presentation style. Being that I am her daughter I think I have learned some of her characteristics and have caught some of that wild teaching style, which is wonderful. I also have a bit of creative edge and love to work with my hands and try to incorporate that into lessons. I believe I have the ability to help students think at a higher level, beyond traditional learning. I enjoy teaching students that learning can be fun and applicable to life. For example, I like to compare humans and insects during the entomology portion of class. I use examples like, "If you were a grasshopper how far could you jump?" or "If you were a rhinoceros beetle how much could you lift for your size?" I then get to incorporate a bit of math as part of my curriculum using conversion equations while they are learning attributes of insects.

Being a teacher is a dream of mine. I grew up in the environment with teachers as parents and really enjoy who I have become because of it. One of the many joys of teaching is seeing the excitement on each student's face or 'the light bulb go off' once they understand the concept of something. I deeply want people to come to an appreciation of agriculture and all branches of it while learning about how it is used in their everyday life. I chose agriculture as a subject because it is one of my passions in life. Sharing it with others is like sharing a piece of my heart. I invest a lot of time and energy learning about it myself and want others to enjoy the excitement as well.

