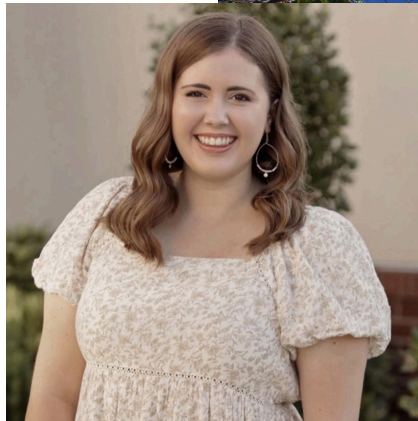




LIPSCOMB UNIVERSITY CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTER

Name: Morgan McIntyre
Title: First Grade Teacher
Industry: Education
Company: Lipscomb Academy Lower School

How did you obtain this job?

My second student teaching placement was at Lipscomb Academy in Junior Kindergarten. Once I started my placement, I saw how incredible the community is and how wonderful the staff and faculty are. The Vice Principal at the time reached out to me near the end of my placement and I completed an interview. I was so thankful that they offered me a first grade position to work at Lipscomb Academy!

Tell us about “a day in the life” at your job!

We start the day at 7:20. We have our morning meeting where we get to come together for social-emotional learning, share time, and Bible teaching. We go right into math and follow that up with English Language Arts (phonics, reading & writing). We get a planning period in the morning when students go to PE and a longer one in the afternoon when they go to related arts. When I am not directly teaching, I'm working ahead during my planning to prepare for upcoming events, respond to emails, and make copies to prepare ahead of time. Weekly we will have team planning meetings and professional development meetings with the entire staff.

What do you like about your job?

I love our school community and working each day with each individual student. I am able to see the progression of each student from when I get them incoming in the fall to when they leave me to go to second grade in the spring. It is rewarding to see just how much they grow and blossom over the year. I love seeing that 'light bulb moment' when content sticks with them and they learn something new.

The students are the most important and rewarding part of this job. ... They not only learn content at school, but we are guiding them to learn important life skills and lessons. I love Lipscomb Academy because we are able to integrate our faith into everything we do. This component helps us have a strong foundation with social-emotional spiritual learning. Although I am only in my second year of teaching at LA, I feel as though I have a family-like community surrounding me. I love getting to know the families and getting to be a part of these kids' lives. They are the best part of it all.

What is challenging about your role?

As a teacher, you wear many hats. You are a teacher, counselor, friend, cheerleader, mentor and more. It sometimes can feel like you are trying to balance them all at once while still trying to give your all to each of your students equally. I try my best to approach each day with a positive attitude and give each student the very best of me. I do think that by wearing these different 'hats' it can establish holistic, positive relationships. Whether I am teaching them how to read or cheering them on at their baseball games, it helps create positive student relationships that will last a lifetime.

What are the benefits of working in this field?

I love teaching because I am continually learning and growing. Each day presents new opportunities to innovate, adapt, and refine my teaching methods to meet the needs of my students. It provides opportunities for frequent collaboration with colleagues and professional development. Teachers also get to experience the joy of witnessing the 'aha' moment when a concept clicks for the student. You get the satisfaction of seeing the evident growth and progress in a student. Each of these things can only be beneficial to me personally and professionally.

What did you do in college to prepare for your career?

My education classes at Lipscomb were very helpful in preparing me for my career. I learned about lesson planning, classroom management, and the science behind reading. I learned many skills and techniques from these classes that I employ in my classroom today. The professors helped guide me and prepared me well for this career. I was blessed to have some incredible professors and mentors during my time at Lipscomb University that have guided me through my educational and professional journey. I am forever grateful for them.

What do you see happening in the future for these types of careers?

There is always a need for teachers and education professionals in this field. This career will always be in demand, guaranteeing a consistent stream of job opportunities across the country. As the trends in education continue to change, the profession as a whole will of course change along with it, but the need for great teachers will continue to remain.

What should a student know about your field?

Before entering the field of education, you should know that teaching requires immense dedication and commitment. You will wear many hats as an educator and all of them are important in their own way. Just know that the students will make all of the hard work and dedication worth it!

What advice do you have for a student considering a career in your profession?

When I was a student considering teaching, I learned so much from watching others and asking lots of questions. In every school I went into to shadow during my student teaching placements, I learned so much from the educators by watching them teach. If you are interested in the education field, getting to observe a classroom can help you decide if that is for you. I learned so much just by talking with teachers about their job and hearing their stories.