

Go With The Flow with Mrs. Waters

By Channing Bruce

Photos Courtesy of Teresa Waters



Waters and her husband Jake, at a pyramid near Mexico City

You might have noticed a bright and bubbly face on the top floor standing in the Language hallway. Teresa Waters is a Spanish III and IV teacher who's been here for six years.

Waters was born in Michigan yet moved immediately to the San Francisco Bay Area of California where she spent some of her early childhood. But Waters officially claims that she is from Chicago, because that's where she spent her “growing up years.” She attended school at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign then moved back to Chicago, then back to the Bay Area, then finally arrived here in Colorado.

A big reason Waters moved here to Colorado is because her parents retired here. Her sister still lives in Chicago so when Waters visits, she loves to spend time with her two nephews.

Waters has always had the urge to be a teacher ever since she was little. By being the older sister to her sister, she would force her to play school and deal with the burdens of homework. Growing up she drifted away from the idea of teaching to broaden her horizons, but through her accrued college credit with Spanish from high school, her perfect mesh would soon blossom into her career as a Spanish teacher.



Waters (right) and her sister as kids in the Bay Area

Her choice of choosing Spanish as her preferred subject is as simple as it gets, “I always thought it would be so cool to be fluent one day.” Her personal motivations can be seen within her curriculums. Her goal for her students is that she can make her students feel confident and strong about their usage of Spanish. She wants to build a solid foundation for student’s curiosity for potential Spanish explorers like herself.



Mrs. Waters with her dog, Wanda, hiking in Golden

So why did Waters choose Golden High School? Before moving to Colorado, she sought out a school that was sustainable and allowed her to settle down for a while. “I didn't really know exactly what that meant but I know what it didn't mean. And for me it didn't mean a school that was new, turning over a bunch of stuff, trying out new initiatives because I've been there and done that.” She was attracted to the community that Golden has. “It's evident even from the outside.”

When she was interviewed for her position, she noted that her fellow staff members were talking to her like she was already part of the team.

“It feels like a family, yeah we go through hard times and yeah we don't always agree in every aspect, but we want to maintain healthy relationships with students [and] with each other and we’re always looking out for the best of the student community.”

“I've never been at a school before where students say thank you at the end of a lesson.”

Sometimes during a passing period, you can notice that Waters mainly converses with her colleagues in Spanish.

“I rarely speak in English on a given day in school, which has just done wonders for my proficiency. Most of my days I just speak Spanish.” But her most practical use of Spanish outside the class is for traveling.

Waters has a very obvious love for traveling and takes trips with her husband Jake. It's such a ginormous surprise that Water’s absolute favorite and most explored country is Spain. Her favorite aspect about Spain is “starting a conversation with the person sitting next to you on a bus or sharing a table with strangers at a restaurant is not weird [or] uncomfortable like it can be here; it's just part of life there!” She has visited Barcelona, Girona, Valencia, and so much more. Some of her other favorite



countries she has traveled to are France for the different environments and beautiful architecture, and Mexico City for the vibrant culture. She has also been to Italy, Ireland, and Costa Rica. When asked about her future potential destinations, she states that she would either go to Germany, Guatemala, or South America.

With Waters being so open to exploring new cultures, she likes to explore through cuisine. On weekdays, she and her husband enjoy home cooking. Some of her favorite palettes include Mexican, Spanish, Indian, French and Mediterranean. On weekends, they enjoy going out to new restaurants.



If you've ever been in one of her classes, you would know that she has incorporated her very cute Goldendoodle, Wanda, into her curriculum. Wanda has become the mascot and students love to incorporate her also. Wanda also has a cousin, Travis, who likes to come in every once in a while like a special character in a sitcom. She's a very spoiled only child and loves to take long walks with Waters.

Waters extensive background with her world of travel makes her an exceptional teacher for Spanish. What's more important is that she teaches with compassion, humor, and intelligence. She's been all around but Golden High School is glad that she settled here.