



Mrs. Patti Shivers #WHYTEACH

Meet Mrs. Shivers. While OCS turns 40 this year, our beloved Patti Shivers started her teaching career 25 years ago, right here, at Orangewood Christian School. Mrs. Shivers was blessed with the incredible opportunity of going to a Christian school for her entire academic career. At age 5, she started kindergarten at Timothy Christian School in Chicago, Illinois. Interestingly, both of her grandparents and parents graduated from the same school. She went on to get her Bachelor's degree in Education from Trinity Christian College in Chicago and triple minored in History, Theology, and Art! Another fun fact, her college roommate (Mrs. Langmo's sister) convinced her to apply at Orangewood because Mrs. Langmo was already teaching here and she wanted them to be able to keep living together. Isn't it interesting the people that God will use to put you exactly where he needs you? So, all the way back in 1990, Mrs. Shivers applied to be a sixth-grade teacher at Orangewood. She says the only reason she agreed to come interview was because she'd get a free trip to Florida in the middle of a very cold Chicago winter! But, God. He had other plans for Mrs. Shivers; and as they say, "the rest is history." In her service at Orangewood, she's taught sixth-grade and high school math, been the assistant principal (she says this was not as much fun as the classroom), and now God has her teaching Bible. In her current role, she teaches Old Testament, shares Christ with her students, and leads a bible study called "Lunch with Jesus." Our students and faculty absolutely adore her and love her for her charisma and heart.

What's your favorite thing about teaching?

"Hands-down, my favorite thing about teaching is my students. I truly have come to love high schoolers. I love creating lessons that make them have a-ha moments where they make connections especially where their faith in Christ is concerned. My very ultimate favorite thing is when a student comes to know the Lord. Those are sacred moments. I also really enjoy just having fun. High schoolers are hilarious and I enjoy their energy and candor."

How do you spend your weekends and holidays?

"I am actually a very big homebody so I enjoy being home on the weekends and spending time with my family. Right now, I am really into swimming, so I try and get some good time in the pool. I am working on the goal right now to swim all the way across Bear Lake in Apopka. I'm getting close! I even have a fancy wetsuit for the winter months! I am also a big reader. Years ago, I set a goal for myself to read 100 books in a year. I didn't quite make it but it was a great time regardless."

If you weren't a teacher, what would you be?

"Hands-down, I would absolutely be a talk show host. Or a cheerleader. Or Miss America. Really any of those would work."

What's one thing that would surprise people about you?

"I think one thing that is surprising about me is that I'm actually a really big introvert. While I truly enjoy people I also demand a lot of downtime. I am also 100% Dutch. Both of my grandparents can trace their lineage back to small towns in the Netherlands."

If you could take your students on a field trip anywhere in the world, where would you take them?

"The Grand Canyon so students could experience the all and wonder of what our God can do."

What is your go to Bible verse?

"For the LORD your God is living among you. He is a mighty savior. He will take delight in you with gladness. With his love, he will calm all your fears. He will rejoice over you with joyful songs. Zephaniah 3:17"