



KIKER, GILLION, WEBSTER, TIERNEY, SMITH, GONZALES

Meet Your Teachers

Stacy Webster

"Like the dictionary, but better."

Stacy Allen Webster loves literature, travel, film, and marinated artichoke hearts. She grew up splitting time between San Antonio and Ft. Worth and landed in Austin where she earned a B.A. in English at the University of Texas. This is her 18th year of teaching, and somewhere along the way, Mrs. Webster was named O. Henry Middle School's Teacher of the Year and became an area semi-finalist for Teacher of the Year, participated in the Smithsonian/National Faculty program, received the LBJ Dor L'Dor Holocaust Remembrance Award for exemplary teaching, and earned an M. Ed. in Curriculum and Instruction. At Austin High, she has helped design the World Studies program, piloted a Cultural Studies elective, and served as the International Studies Coordinator during AGS's fledgling year. Pre-K (pre-kids), Mrs. Webster's favorite memories involved taking students to Europe and doing service work in Honduras. Nowadays, she's most proud and consumed by a "co-authored" project: Sophie, age 6, and Jameson, age 3.

Room: 172

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Pre-AP English II ~ AGS World Studies

In the interdisciplinary spirit of things, English II has been focused on the FOUNDATIONS of language and literature. A close analysis of visual art, "Landscape with the Fall of Icarus," has allowed students to experience the habits of thinking required for our course: remembering, understanding, applying, analyzing, evaluating, and creating. The same mini-unit has required us to review the primary literary devices used to analyze text: diction, imagery, detail, syntax, point of view, tone, and theme (henceforth known as "Los Superseven"). Next week, we'll look at the building blocks of vocabulary when we start our etymology/root word lessons.

Students entering Pre-AP and AP English classes at Austin High are expected to complete summer reading, so if your student is behind on *Life of Pi*, please encourage perseverance. We'll conduct a Socratic Seminar about the book on September 8 and 9, and we return to the themes of the book throughout the year. If students never get to Section 3 of the novel, they have, as Pi says, "missed the better story." Students will choose from *The Ramayana* (Narayan's translation) or Hesse's *Siddhartha* for our next unit: Joseph Campbell's Hero Cycle. Those books are needed in class on September 12. While we recommend that students purchase books for annotation

The Sophomore Something



TUTORIAL HOURS

Monday

A.M. – Alg 2 (Kiker), Chemistry (Gonzales)

P.M. – Spanish (Gillion)

Tuesday

A.M. – Geometry (Smith), Spanish (Gillion)

P.M. – World History (Tierney), Alg 2 (Kiker), Chemistry (Gonzales)

Wednesday

A.M. – English II (Webster), Chemistry (Gonzales)

P.M. – Geometry (Smith), World History (Tierney), English II (Webster), Alg 2 (Kiker), Spanish (Gillion)

Thursday

A.M. – Alg 2 (Kiker), Spanish (Gillion)

Friday

A.M. – Alg 2 (Kiker), Chemistry (Gonzales)

purposes, we do have a limited supply of both titles available for checkout.

Edward Tierney

"Going for world domination."

Edward Tierney grew up in Dallas, TX and made his way through DISD and Jesuit College Preparatory School before heading off for Boston University and the University of Texas. He earned his B.A. in history from

U.T. and found that he could not leave the city of Austin. He began his teaching career at Austin High in January, 2001 and has been Loyal Forever, so far. During that time, Mr. Tierney has taught World History every year, Latin American Studies, Economics, Government, and Model United Nations. Working with two English teachers, Mr. Tierney developed the World Studies curriculum at Austin High school and his interest in interdisciplinary work led him to AGS in 2010. Mr. Tierney enjoys cooking, reading, riding his bicycle and traveling. He has taken over 200 students to ten different countries through EF Tours and AGS.

Room: 170

Phone: (512) 414-1940

Website:

<http://tierneyworldhistory.wikispaces.com>

World History ~ AGS World Studies

World History is starting with the River Valley Civilizations and then moving into World Religion. We have our first test on September 6 and 7. We are setting up the course organization such as the ISN spiral notebook and will be starting to talk about the first project next week.

Kyle Smith

"He eats pi for dessert."

Mr. Smith returned to Austin High School in 2010 after having graduated as a loyal Maroon in 2000. His collegiate studies were in History with a minor in Classical Civilizations and he brings this historical perspective into the classroom by connecting how Math has influenced history and vice-versa. This is his first year as a Global Studies teacher, and his Geometry classes are off to a promising start, as his students have already demonstrated their brightness and capacity for learning. His classes will include learning practical applications of Geometry and developing an in-depth understanding of how they can utilize its principles in their world. When Mr. Smith is not poring over his students' work, he enjoys the Texas sun as much as he can-swimming, rock-climbing, hiking, camping, biking and road-tripping.

Room: 168

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Geometry ~ AGS

To open the school year, Mr. Smith's students will be completing a project that displays their creativity while familiarizing them with the Geometrical terminology they will use throughout the year. They will cut and paste photos of real world examples of

polygons, angles, and other figures on a poster-board. Beyond teaching the vocabulary of the class to students, the project is designed to accentuate the concept that Geometry is ubiquitous, and that a thorough knowledge of its principles is key to understanding their world.

William Kiker

"When a problem comes along, he graphs it."

"As most former students know, Mr. Kiker is passionate about anything associated with learning or teaching. Even in the first grade, he even insisted his parents learn how to do subtraction under his instruction. He is a native Texan by all meanings of the phrase. He moved to Austin several years ago to pursue his degree in mathematics from UT (hook 'em!) and soon realized, like many, his love for the city of Austin. During his limited free time, he can be found roaming the UT campus during the summer months as a graduate student, reading at a local coffee hangout, jogging around Town Lake, or working on his sunburn out at Lake Travis.

The 2011-2012 school year marks his second at the Academy for Global Studies as the Pre-AP Algebra 2 instructor."

Room: 175

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Website: <http://web.me.com/williamkiker>

Algebra 2 ~ AGS

Due to the changing needs of today's educated citizen, the orientation of Algebra 2 in Texas has shifted to include more work with functional relationships and problem-solving in real-world situations. Algebra 2 allows students to develop logical reasoning by making and justifying generalizations based on their own experiences. Since Algebra is a universal language through which most of mathematics is

communicated, one of the major goals of instruction is to provide the means by operating with concepts at an abstract level, then through a process of generalizations, applying them to the practical world.

Emphasis is given to developing a more sophisticated understanding of algebraic representation as well as increasing the use of quantitative methods as tools for applying mathematics.

Robert Gonzales

"This ain't no muppet show."

Gonzo is no stranger to strangeness. The guy has a cut-out poster of Buffy the Vampire Slayer protecting his classroom. Arguably, it

was a risky move by the state of Texas to certify him to teach your children. Fortunately, it was his biggest dream upon exiting the UTeach Program with his B.S. in Chemistry to bestow upon unsuspecting students the many marvels of matter. In his nine years as a science educator, Gonzo has taught all levels of chemistry, been an instructional coach, and has provided training to Pre-AP Chemistry teachers in districts around the country through Laying the Foundation. In his second year with AGS, he has embraced the muppet name given to him by Mrs. Webster and decided to put a fresh spin on both his curriculum design and pedagogical approach. You might catch him running on the trail or playing sand volleyball at Zilker. But really, there's no telling with this one.

Room: 192

Phone: (512) 414-6187

Website:

www.keepgonzoweird.weebly.com

Chemistry ~ AGS

I'm continuing the theme of FOUNDATIONS in chemistry by figuring out what matters most: matter. If the atom is the smallest particle of an element, and elements (whether in pure form or in combinations) make up the world around us, we must figure out what's up with all those protons, neutrons, and electrons. Abstract thought abounds!

Kevin Gillion

"His only language is love."

Señor Gillion incorporates modern language learning strategies, Paolo Freire, and punk rock in order to create an environment where students take academic risks, communicate in Spanish, practice empathy, and become the subjects of their own sentences.

Room: 169

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Spanish II ~ AGS

'Expressing Identity' as a review of Spanish I skills and vocabulary, La Virgen de Guadalupe, Mexican Independence, el indigenismo

Spanish III ~ AGS

'Student as Anthropologist' as an introduction to ancient civilizations in Mesoamerica, talking about actions in the past, La Malinche.