JULIAN MERCER

MIDDLE SCHOOL TEACHER

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PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Middle school science and core subjects teacher with 14+ years in grades 6 through 8. Engages early adolescents with hands-on labs, clear routines, and strong advisory relationships. Experienced in team teaching, intervention, and communicating with families across a diverse community.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Eighth Grade Science Teacher Aug 2019 - Present
Austin Independent School District, Austin, TX

- Teach 150 eighth graders each year across five science sections with weekly hands-on labs aligned to Texas standards.
- Raised the share of students meeting grade level on the STAAR science exam from 61% to 72% by adding spiral review and lab-based reteaching.
- Serve as team lead for a four-teacher grade-level team, scheduling shared parent conferences and common planning time.
- Run a homeroom advisory of 24 students, meeting weekly one-on-one with the five students most at risk of failing a class.
- Wrote a grant of $2,500 that bought lab kits and microscopes for all eighth grade classrooms.
- Coach the school's Science Olympiad team to a district top-three finish in its second year.
- Teach safe lab procedure to every eighth grader in the first week of school, and recorded no lab injuries across the year.

Sixth Grade Core Teacher Aug 2014 - Jun 2019
Round Rock Independent School District, Round Rock, TX

- Taught math and science to a self-contained cohort of about 55 sixth graders and shared grading with a language arts partner.
- Cut missing assignments by about a third through a weekly planner check and a short Friday catch-up period.
- Moved seven students from failing to passing status by running small-group math intervention three days a week.
- Held biannual family conferences with over 90% attendance by offering evening and video options.
- Created a weekly parent newsletter with homework and science project updates that families rated useful in the annual survey.
- Mentored two student teachers from Texas State University over three semesters.

Eighth Grade Teacher Aug 2012 - Jun 2014
San Marcos Consolidated Independent School District, San Marcos, TX

- Taught eighth grade physical science with an emphasis on forces, motion, and measurement labs.
- Introduced a weekly lab notebook routine that improved the quality of student conclusions on lab reports.
- Completed a planning cycle with the eighth grade math teacher to align graphing skills with force and motion data.

CORE SKILLS

Middle grades science instruction | Hands-on lab design | Classroom management | Advisory and SEL | Differentiated instruction | Team teaching | Intervention groups | Data-driven reteaching | Grant writing | Parent conferences | Google Classroom | TEKS-aligned planning | Student mentoring

EDUCATION

Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies, Texas State University, San Marcos, TX

CERTIFICATIONS

Texas Teaching Certificate, Core Subjects 4-8 | Texas Science 4-8 Certification | CPR and First Aid