

Meet the teacher: Shanna Covarrubias

While Shanna Covarrubias is a highly dedicated Spanish teacher, she's also an engaging story teller.

And that is by design. Mrs. Covarrubias says her focus in the classroom is on research-based teaching methods that create maximum impact for language acquisition.

"Research says that people acquire languages when they understand messages in those languages, so that's what I'm trying to do," Mrs. Covarrubias said. "And I do a lot of that through stories, whether that's reading stories, watching television, telling stories about my life, students telling me about their lives — real-life stories, fiction stories, any type of story."

Mrs. Covarrubias teaches Spanish 1, 2, 3 and 4, with Spanish 3 and 4 being dual-credit courses for college credit. This year she also added a Hispanic Cultures and Civilizations class to the MELHS curriculum. In addition, she leads the Spanish Club and is the coach of the MELHS Scholar Bowl team (a team which placed fourth place in the state last year, by the way).

Mrs. Covarrubias at a Glance:

- A 2011 MELHS graduate "I have a lot of pride in being a MELHS grad. I almost went to public high school, but I got to come here instead, and it was life changing."
- Bachelor's in Spanish education from Olivet Nazarene University
- Spent a semester studying abroad in Ecuador. "That's when I went from having a head knowledge of Spanish to it becoming functional for me."

The best part about being a teacher: Getting to have fun and grow in relationship with students and then leveraging that relationship to get new knowledge into their heads.

The best part about being a MELHS teacher: I love that I get to be a part of students' lives very closely for four years. And my coworkers are amazing. Every single person in this building loves these students and wants what's best for them. That is a blessing that is not duplicable.

"The point of a language class is to communicate. The point of taking a Spanish class is to be able to communicate with more of God's people around the world."

SHANNA COVARRUBIAS

