

Meet the teacher: Laura Morrison

Laura Morrison describes the four-year English curriculum at Metro-East Lutheran High School as a “work of art.”

And although Mrs. Morrison is chair of the English department, she doesn't take credit for the comprehensiveness of the curriculum. That, she says, belong to the late Hope Theisen-Claxton, the previous chair of the department and Mrs. Morrison's long-time mentor who passed away in January.

The four-year curriculum is carefully designed to introduce new writing and literature analysis skills each year while reinforcing skills learned in previous years. The result is students who are strong writers — and thinkers.

"I've had college professors tell me they can spot the kids that came to MELHS because of how well then can write and verbalize their thoughts about literature," Mrs. Morrison said.

In addition to English, Mrs. Morrison teaches oral communications and U.S. history. She also is the faculty advisor for Student Council, which she describes as the group who “creates the fun here at MELHS.”

Mrs. Morrison at a Glance:

- Bachelor's in secondary education with concentrations in English and history from Concordia University Nebraska
- Is in her 28th year of teaching at MELHS
- Always knew she wanted to be a teacher. “I had great teachers growing up, and I just loved them and wanted to be like them.”

The best part about being a teacher: I love the relationships that I form with the kids — the relationships and the laughter. We are learning in class, but we are also having fun.

The best part about being a MELHS teacher: I love the way that our students genuinely care about each other. They aren't tearing each other down. They are lifting each other up. I love that about our student body.

"Studying literature not only teaches students to focus and analyze, but it also teaches them empathy by thinking about what these characters are going through. They are developing their own character by reading about other characters."

LAURA MORRISON

