



“The Life of an Edgecombe Co. School Teacher”

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Interview of Edgecombe Co. School Teacher

My name is Allison Lancaster, a fourteen year old 4-H from Edgecombe County. I interviewed Tammy Powell, an Edgecombe county employee. Tammy is a first grade teacher at G.W Bulluck Elementary School. Tammy says to be a teacher she had to attend college for four years, and she attended East Carolina University to receive her degree. She started her job in 1992.

Tammy had always wanted to be a teacher in her childhood. She loved her elementary teachers and wanted to be just like them. As a child she would play "school" with the kids in her neighborhood, and she was always the teacher. As she got older she said her dream never changed. She said "I love children and thought a career in teaching would be the best job in the world!"

Tammy said she chose her job as an Edgecombe County educator because she grew up in Edgecombe County and attend Edgecombe County public schools as a child. Tammy said after college she wanted to move back home, so she felt a job in Edgecombe County where many

of her teacher that inspired her to be an educator were. She also wanted to work in a rural, low socio-economic county. She felt it would be more rewarding to help under-privileged children.

Tammy says the children are the best thing about her job. She says they keep her job fun, exciting and rewarding. "There is never a boring day at my job" says Tammy, "They bring so much joy to the daily lives of educators." Tammy says the thing she likes least and would change about her job is the salaries. Teachers' salaries are far less than many other professional careers.

Tammy says there are many advantages of being a teacher. She says it is an incredible job because teachers mold the future as they impact many young, impressionable lives of students. She says students impact the lives of teachers as well. "The students provide us with daily humor and challenge us to remain life-long learners" says Tammy. She said another advantage is having the same schedule as her family. She says "I enjoy spending time with my family in the afternoons and especially summer vacations."

"The major disadvantage of our school system has

suffered recently is tremendous budget cuts. Many valuable staff positions and programs have been cut in the past few years due to the lack of funding. The children are at the disadvantage because they are paying the ultimate price,” says educator Tammy.

When asking Tammy what advice she would give someone wanting to become an educator she said, “I would advise them to volunteer in a classroom and possibly become a substitute teacher.” These opportunities would help provide a real life situation that universities do not offer. Having knowledge of the content area is not adequate. It is also necessary for future teachers to have enthusiasm and passion for educating children. “They must realize the impact to society they will make with these children” say Tammy.