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EDITOR'S PICK

## Teacher of the Week: Laura Furrer, French, Jefferson Middle School, Champaign

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Feb 16, 2023



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After teaching English in France and on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean, just east of Madagascar, Laura Furrer returned home to teach French at Jefferson Middle School, where she went to school.

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hope that my class furthers students' curiosity about the world.

**I became a teacher because ...** I thought it would be fun. It is fun, but it is also hard work.

**My favorite/most unique lesson that I teach is ...** It varies from year to year depending on the students and what they get excited about. I like having conversations where students share how they relate to a book character, or theme, or a different cultural perspective. My students can have very sophisticated views on all sorts of different things. I learn constantly.

**My most fulfilling moments on the job are when ...** students get creative with language in new ways, or they make connections to what we are learning with ideas that I never would have thought of.

**I keep students engaged by ...** picking books that are really cool (at least I think so)! In French as a foreign language class, I try to do a lot of different activities so there's something for everybody.

**Something else I'm passionate about is ...** knitting, coffee, tea and my cats.

**My favorite teacher and subject to study in school was ...** That's a dangerous question for a townie. I had so many amazing teachers that it would be hard to pick just one. I'm also very thankful for many of my teacher colleagues who have taught me to be a better teacher by sharing ideas, giving advice and letting me watch them teach.

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**If I weren't a teacher, I would be ...** something that would involve traveling all over the world.