

# Chicken Soup

## for

# Friendswood ISD

Does anyone ever forget their first job interview? Mine will forever be embedded in my memories because it's how Friendswood became my home.

I was about to graduate from Texas A&M University and had an opportunity to interview for a PE/Coaching position at Friendswood Junior High. Being from a small town in South Texas, I had never even heard of Friendswood, TX. My boyfriend (now husband) explained Friendswood was a great district; anyone and everyone wanted a job there. On the day of the interview, I tried to ease my nerves. I imagined the questions I might be asked and reminded myself to stay true to who I am and why I wanted to be a teacher. The reality of this interview possibly leading to the beginning of my teaching career was settling in!

Walking into Friendswood Junior High, I anticipated who the interview panel may consist of. I was greeted by the Principal, Dr. Rebecca Hillenburg, and Girls Athletic Coordinator, Paula Kelly. Both Dr. Hillenburg and Coach Kelly were so welcoming! While I do not remember every question asked, I do remember how comfortable they made me feel. After the interview, we toured the campus. I could feel the culture of community and could envision myself gaining so much from being a part of it.

On the drive back to College Station, I replayed the interview over and over. I hoped I had expressed to Dr. Hillenburg and Coach Kelly both who I was as a person and what I could do as a teacher. Friendswood Junior High felt right, and I really wanted to be a part of that community. However, I knew there was a great deal of competition for a job in Friendswood, especially for a PE position. As I anxiously waited to hear one way or the other, my nerves were on edge. I will never forget the overwhelming feeling of joy I had when I received the call offering me the position! I would be a PE teacher and coach at Friendswood Junior High...what an honor!!

I am now in my 19th year at Friendswood Junior High. For 12 years I taught PE and coached a few sports. Being able to pour into students not only the importance of fitness for life but those important life lessons of perseverance, fearlessness, confidence, and the need to have FUN was so rewarding! Now, I am in a different role as the 6th grade Assistant Principal, and I have the opportunity to work with incredible teachers and staff members while also serving a spunky population of 6th graders! The 6th graders are at such a special time in their educational journey, and I have the privilege of building positive connections with them as I help guide them towards success!

Dr. Hillenburg and Coach Kelly, along with many others, have had an incredible impact on me and helped shape me into the educator I am today. That first interview with Friendswood Junior High led me to a fulfilling career in Friendswood ISD. It gave me the opportunity to become a part of the profession I love and has provided my family a home with an amazing village of people who have walked with us through many joys as well as a few heartbreaks. This 19 year journey in FISD has taught me how important community is, and I am thankful to be both a part of and contributor to it!

-Christina Holt, 6th Grade Assistant Principal