

Jessi K. Spitler

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Cooper HS, Abilene ISD

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Education

Miami University: Master of Arts in Biology

- Major & Department: Biological Science, Zoology
- Focus: Global Field Studies in Conservation & Research Biology
- Date of Graduation: December 2018
- Cumulative GPA: 3.93
- Honor Societies & Affiliations: Golden Key International Honour Society

Heidelberg College: Bachelor of Science, Magna Cum Laude

- Major: Adolescent to Young Adult Education, Specialization of Integrated Science
- Minor: Biology
- Date of Graduation: December 2008
- Cumulative GPA: 3.94
- Honor Societies & Affiliations: Kappa Delta Pi, Beta Beta Beta, American Chemical Society

Teaching Licensure: 7-12 Biology, Chemistry, Geology, Physics, Astronomy, Environmental Science

- 2021-2027** 5 Year Texas Standard License
- 2015-2021** 5 Year Texas Standard License
- 2014-2015** 1 Year Texas Temporary License
- 2011-2015** 4 Year Ohio Resident Educator License
- 2009-2011** 2 Year Ohio Provisional License

Teaching Experience

Science Teacher: Abilene Cooper High School, Abilene, TX

August 2014- present

- Teach 7 periods (appx 210 students) including AP Environmental Science, Environmental Systems, Biology, Astronomy, & Chemistry.
- Plan & implement independently-standing units (using no text books) centered around learning targets (personally developed from the College Board Topic Outline and/or Texas Essential Knowledge & Skills) in the form of "I Can..." statements, allowing students to take ownership of their own learning.
- Include regular labs to keep students engaged, to introduce real-world connections, & to foster lab proficiency.
- Spend time with students outdoors with hands-on conservation projects, environmental quality assays, environmental forensics, and population management projects.
- Assign and assist students with a variety of individual and group projects including APA research papers, production of videos (Claymation, stop motion, music video, etc.), energy audits, installation of energy efficient equipment, astrophysics investigations, space exploration simulations, etc.
- Teach a diverse student group involving lesson modifications for IEP, 504, & LEP students plus differentiation for all students.
- Participate in ARD meetings, Parent-Teacher Conferences, & many other collaborative processes.
- Received the highest passing rate for our school in over 10 years for the AP Environmental Science exam in 2015 and broke this record again in 2017.
- Created an Astronomy Challenge Club for students to work outside of class time on space-related engineering challenges. Have had multiple students place in 99th percentile for the state of Texas and go on to a full space camp at Johnson Space Center to work with other students from across the state to complete simulated Mars missions.

Science Teacher: West Holmes High School, Millersburg, OH**August 2011- May 2014**

- Taught 7 periods (appx 175 students) including Chemistry, Environmental Science, Biology, & Physics.
- Planned & implemented independently-standing units (using no text books) centered around learning targets (personally developed from the Ohio Model Curriculum & Common CORE Standards) in the form of "I Can..." statements which allowed students to take ownership of their own learning.
- Ran a partially-flipped classroom utilizing many forms of technology including a Weebly website, my own podcasts, YouTube videos, Khan Academy, and many other online resources. Students were able to do many assignments from mobile devices and online.
- Included regular labs to keep students engaged, to introduce real-world connections, & to foster lab proficiency.
- Spent 1/5 of class time with Environmental Science students outdoors with hands-on conservation projects, environmental quality assays, environmental forensics, and population management projects for local snakes, turtles, birds, etc. Students practiced capturing, measuring, identifying, tagging, etc.
- Taught a diverse student group, co-taught with an intervention specialist (2 classes), and planned lesson modifications for various IEP students and to allow differentiation for all students.
- Participated in IEP meetings, Parent-Teacher Conferences, & many other collaborative processes.
- Was advisor for the school's Science Club which included conducting regular meetings, coordinating fund raisers, day trips (the Wilderness Center, museums, Cleveland Zoo, Ohio Caverns, Perkins Observatory/Planetarium, etc.), overnight trips (OSU's Stone Lab at Put-In-Bay and Cincinnati/Mammoth Cave), and volunteer opportunities for the Science Club members. We worked on a number of habitat management projects on and off school grounds, and my students volunteered at a local nature preserve, as well as co-hosted a youth science camp during the summers.

Other Related Experience**Texas Master Naturalist, Big Country Chapter, Abilene, TX****August 2014 - present**

- Serve as Vice President for the organization.
- Volunteer at Abilene State Park, Abilene Zoo, & other locations.
- Present astronomy lessons and lead star parties to bring hundreds of guests to Abilene State Park monthly.
- Lead nature hikes and outdoor education, plus coordinate many other community outreach activities.
- Lead outdoor STEM activities for young girls at the annual Girls' Day event at Abilene State Park.
- Work on population monitoring and conservation for reptiles, amphibians, pollinators, birds, and many other organisms.
- Teach courses for community members and new volunteers about astronomy, herpetology, population studies, and habitat management.
- Write and edit stories for the chapter's bimonthly publication and social media platforms
- Organize chapter camping trips and other outings.

Wildlife Biologist**June 2008 - present**

- Work on a variety of projects around the world (Past project locations: US, Belize, Guatemala, Mexico, Costa Rica, Brazil, China, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, Namibia, Australia, etc.)
- Specialize in geospatial biology and population surveys using radio telemetry, GPS devices, PIT tags, and other technology to study territories and habits of various organisms.
- Give educational presentations to visitors and community members in the US and abroad.
- Current projects in the US involve Texas Horned lizards, rattlesnakes, mountain lions, pollinator studies, etc.
- Projects abroad have included green iguanas, spider monkeys, manatees, whale sharks, sea lions, various birds of prey, jaguars, mountain lions, orangutans, Bornean pygmy elephants, water monitors, Komodo dragons, reticulated pythons, proboscis monkeys, estuarine crocodiles, sea turtles, and many others.

Ohio Certified Volunteer Naturalist, Wilmot, OH**June 2012- May 2014**

- Volunteered at The Wilderness Center & other locations.
- Served on several committees for projects & ran seminars, events, and classes for adults and children.
- Led nature hikes and coordinated many other community outreach activities.
- Worked on invasive plant removal, population monitoring for reptiles & amphibians, designed QR code signs for trails, and created a natural outdoor children's play area.
- Arranged for students from my high school classes to volunteer here and learn about environmental quality and management