

Alyssa Liley – middle school science

Why did you choose your degree program? How has it helped you grow personally and professionally?

I chose the McKendree education program because I knew it was a great program to be in, and McKendree is close to my family, which is important to me. I have learned many great teaching strategies and techniques while in the education program. I have also been able to reflect on why I love teaching, and how I can pour into all of my students.

What are you most proud of accomplishing during your time here?

I am most proud of the growth in my lesson plans over the time that I've been in the education department. I have seen tremendous growth in the engagement of my lessons, which excites me about my growth as a teacher when I have my own classroom. I've put together some really fun station labs and activities that my students seemed to really enjoy while student-teaching.

If you could go back in time, what advice would you give your first-year self?

If I could go back in time, I would give my first-year self encouragement about how amazing teaching is.

Who helped you the most on your journey?

My older sister is a teacher, and she was a big help to me. She knows the ropes, which was helpful, and she also supported me in my time at McKendree. My cooperating teacher while student-teaching has also been such a blessing! She has a wealth of knowledge about teaching science and has never shied away from sharing it with me.

What's next after graduation?

After graduation, I am going on a mission trip to El Salvador and will spend my summer preparing for the upcoming school year! I will be teaching at Maryville Christian School for the 2024-25 school year in a middle school science classroom.