



Debbie Savino - FEPPP Fellow

I have a passion for bringing mathematics to life for my students and being able to incorporate personal finance into my classes has added a strong layer of connection. I have been teaching for 19 years, most recently with Richland Washington's *Pacific Crest Online Academy*. I am a *National Board Certified Teacher*, and a *FEPPP Fellow*. Prior to teaching, I had my own business and homeschooled my children. I am Mom to seven, Grandma to four, and a perpetual student. Bringing financial literacy to my students has added so much relevance and connection! I encourage all K-12 educators to come to a *FEPPP* training, because it will give you a renewed sense of mission to your children and families.

FEPPP Executive Director, Tracy Godat, sat down with Debbie and asked her about her life and career. Here's what she had to say.

TG: How did you start your teaching career?

DS: I home schooled my own children for 8 years. Life circumstances changed and I ended up back in school for my masters. After my student teaching, I started teaching math in the Kennewick School District. I taught there for 10 years. At that point I moved to Hawaii and taught middle school math for one year. Then back to Eastern Washington.

TG: Since the first time we met, your passion for financial literacy has been infectious – where does this come from?

DS: I have always tried to find ways to put relevance in all that I teach. I went to my first FEPPP training in 2017 and felt like I hit the gold mine! The training changed my teaching and gave me a fire I didn't have before!

TG: What noticeable difference have you observed for your students?

DS: They love it. I started Financial Fridays incorporating personal finance with the math they were learning, and more than half of the students say it was their favorite day of the week not to mention my most attended day of the week.

TG: You have shared with me the impact FEPPP has had on your personal life – can you share a little bit.

DS: When I walked in the door at the first training in Richland, WA – I heard several presentations on investing and other topics I was new to. It started me on a whole new path

Final Thoughts from Debbie: I have enjoyed being a FEPPP Fellow and presenting at FEPPP trainings. I went back to school in 2020 to get my high school CTE Certification so I could teach Personal Finance if the opportunity presented, and this year, I get to teach the class. So grateful for all the inspiration from FEPPP!