



SENATOR NEIL ANDERSON'S 2019 "MY INSPIRATIONAL TEACHER" ESSAY CONTEST



#THANKATEACHER

Katelyn M. Oleson
Grade: 10
Riverdale High School

"A good teacher can inspire hope, ignite the imagination, and instill a love of learning." by Brad Henry. This exemplifies Mr. Jim Campbell, Riverdale High School's Chemistry and Physics teacher. He is the same teacher who captured my interest in science for the first time and led me towards the endless career options in the field of science. Without a doubt, when I think about a teacher who has inspired and changed me in a positive way, it is Mr. Campbell.

Mr. Campbell has taught science at Riverdale High School for the past eighteen years and currently teaches Chemistry I and II, as well as Physics. I had heard how tough he was and how hard his classes were; so, needless to say, I was nervous walking into his classroom on my first day of Chemistry. However, I have learned more in this one class with him than I have learned in any other science class. Mr. Campbell makes learning interesting and engaging; he uses insightful jokes and intriguing questions to spark our interest. I have noticed that if a classmate does not understand the material, he will dive back into the material and present it in a different way. He will come in early or stay after to help a struggling student.

Not only does Mr. Campbell encourage students in the classroom, but he also supports students outside of the classroom. This influential teacher goes above and beyond every day. He has coached scholastic bowl for twenty-nine years, taking five Riverdale teams to state. During volleyball games, his booming voice can be heard announcing the starting line-ups and giving the play by play action throughout the games. It is not unusual to see him cheering us on from the stands at various sporting events, both at home and away.

I have been inspired by Mr. Jim Campbell in multiple ways. Not only has he taught me the materialistic information and greatly furthered my science knowledge, but he has taught me valuable life lessons as well. He taught me how to study to retain the material presented which go far beyond the science classroom. There was even a time during Chemistry class that we finished early and were discussing how we had a math test coming up, but no one

understood it. Mr. Campbell took the time to go over our math lesson, and explained it differently, taking less than five minutes to teach the lesson in a way that my whole class comprehended. If a student asks, he will take the time to read over an essay and correct grammar mistakes.

Because Mr. Campbell has shared his love of science with his students, he has shown me that I am capable of pursuing a career in the medical field. Mr. Campbell's constant dedication to his students whether it is inside or outside of his classroom, while demonstrating his outstanding teaching ability makes him a distinguished contender to receive the Neil Anderson "My Inspirational Teacher" Award.



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Elizabeth Johnson
Grade: 11
Rockridge High School

It's often the lessons they don't remember teaching us that are the ones that make the biggest impact. We often take for granted those in our lives who strive to make each day amazing, but the efforts of Mr. Bizarri, a teacher at Rockridge High School, have not gone unnoticed to me. Mr. Bizarri has taught me lessons in the classroom about grammar and essays, but he's also taught me lessons about life, and things I never knew about myself, he inspires me every day to try harder.

Mr. Bizarri is a great teacher in the aspect of academics, he spends a lot of time with the juniors as they prepare for the SAT, but even in his normal English III class, he works harder than most. He educates us on more than just English, he showed us different cultures and the world around us. He has inspired me because he is really passionate about teaching and it makes the class more exciting. It's also inspired me to find a career that I love as much as he loves teaching. When you're around someone like Mr. Bizarri he really pushes you to look into your future and to not give up on yourself.

The most valuable lessons I learned weren't in the lesson plans, but instead in the little life lessons he gave us. He taught us to never give up, to always have the growth mindset, put aside the fear of failure or looking stupid because that stops you from growing. Mr. Bizarri has become a huge role model in my life, he gives me hope within myself that not many have seen in me. He has inspired me because he believes in me, he has shown me I'm worth it, and that no matter what the world throws at me I can handle it. He inspires me to work harder because he knows I can.

Mr. Bizarri is more than a teacher, he is a mentor, a role model, a friend, but most importantly he is inspiring and hard working. A 500-word essay truly isn't enough to describe how much he has changed my life. I wish there were words to describe how much of an amazing teacher he is, but you truly don't know until you experience it for yourself. Those of us who are lucky enough to have him truly appreciate him, he inspires everyone to never give up,

to find the hope inside of us that we may not always know about, and to think outside the box. I wouldn't be where I am today without him, so thank you Mr. Bizarri for being an inspiration, but also for being my teacher.



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Brandi LaFontaine

Grade: 12

United Township High School

One teacher that taught me kindness, dedication, academic content and life lessons is Mrs. Darla Austin. Mrs. Austin made science class fun, challenging, interesting, and worth the extra work.

This class was challenging, but Mrs. Austin made it seem manageable with the way she taught and cared for her students. In Mrs. Austin's AP Biology class, we had homework, labs, lab reports, tests, and quizzes just like any other science class. Mrs. Austin took the time to make difficult assignments fun and easier to comprehend. I learned that not every test or quiz has to be a sit-down, no-speaking, fill-in-the-bubble experience. We took oral quizzes to test our knowledge of the parts of a pig or the body systems. On one specific quiz, Mrs. Austin had us redraw a diagram and label the process of cellular respiration in detail. Because we had already reviewed by making diagrams ourselves, I was able to create a diagram that matched the way I organize my understanding. This helped me earn 100% on that challenging quiz. I saw in her a teacher who had mastered the content and knew how to make it relatable to students. Mrs. Austin was always prepared and passionate to teach us something new.

Science class is full of labs and assignments, but content note days are important. Lecture days with Mrs. Austin were not like taking notes with other teachers. Along with copying notes, we always had diagrams or visuals to label. Mrs. Austin was creative and used hands-on activities. Mrs. Austin kept me and everyone else focused by reaching out to all types of learners including visual, auditory, reading/writing, and kinesthetic. Mrs. Austin helped us tremendously in preparing for the AP exam. She gave us practice packets and helpful hints. She always reminded us that this class and the exam were tough and challenging but supported us in our hard work and dedication. She made notes and labs fun and interesting, but studying was always still a major requirement to pass tests and quizzes.

Mrs. Austin left a huge impact on my life in how she worked with me personally. Being a three-sport varsity athlete, I had to miss class or leave early quite often. Mrs. Austin was always

willing to work extra with me if I needed to get caught up and she completely understood my situation, as she herself was a varsity volleyball coach for many years. Mrs. Austin always asked about sports and teams and how my games went. She was someone I could talk with. She showed her love for her job as she constantly took time to talk with her students about life. Mrs. Austin taught me that a very important aspect of being a teacher is developing relationships with the students, which demonstrates care and support. Without relationships, students may not feel welcomed or cared about, which may reflect in their effort and grades. Mrs. Austin is a teacher that is very dedicated to her students and her unique teaching styles.



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Morgan Carter

Grade: 10

United Township High School

You're asking me who inspired me most in school? Well I have many teachers that inspired me but there is one teacher that showed me how to live in the real world. He taught me how to pay bills, get a job, and how to survive a job interview. I think Mr. Holland is the one that inspired me most. He taught me all the things I need to know for life after high school. I know him because I have him as my English teacher for 10th grade. He is inspiring to me because when he reads a book to the class I can picture it as if it is real life. He makes the stories sound more realistic- way better than when he uses the audiobook (when that turns on it's like a robot- I'd rather hear Mr. Holland read). I've known Mr. Holland since the first day of 10th grade so like 9 months.

Mr. Holland inspired me on how to live in life, how to get a good job, and to get ready for big questions at job interviews. I like reading books in our class because we start conversations about it, answer good questions, and mostly because he picks interesting books. He has also taught the class how to write sentences better, and the brain teasers we sometimes do are pretty fun. He does great teaching the class and teaching me how to be responsible about my belongings. He is also more understanding than other teachers when you're having problems.

I know I've changed because I'm getting a job, I'm doing better facing my fears in life, I survived my job interview, and I'm understanding more in life all because of Mr. Holland teaching me what things are most important. My personality has changed a little bit too. My behavior has gotten better since I've been thinking about my future. I was thinking that I could do a campaign and make sweatshirts to "STOP BULLYING!!!"

I chose Mr. Holland out of all the other teachers because he makes things more interesting. I'm more interested in his teaching and stuff than other teachers. He likes to help kids that actually want to learn about stuff they've never heard before.



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Robert Deuth

Grade: 12

United Township High School

The teacher I would like to nominate for this teacher is Mr. Kevin Marner. I know Mr. Marner because he was one of the first people I met when I came to UT. He is my case manager in the special education department. I've known Mr. Marner for the last four years.

Mr. Marner is an amazing teacher and he's always there for anyone and everybody when they need help. When I first came to United Township High School, he helped me with all my problems with school and emotional problems. Mr. Marner is a teacher that always has his hopes that every student he knows will succeed in life and he is always right. Mr. Marner is a teacher I will remember because he made sure I was passing and made sure I was doing good in life. When I think of inspiring people Mr. Marner is the first person that comes to mind. Most teachers at this school think Mr. Marner is a amazing teacher and all around great person and I couldn't agree more. He is always supporting students in the decisions they make and always there for guidance when it's needed and especially when you ask for it.

How have I changed since knowing Mr. Marner? I've a lot since my freshman year in high school and I believe it is because Mr. Marner has helped me throughout the four years of being here. I have changed my attitude about school: I used to hate coming to school, but now I love coming to school. I love learning about science and history, two subjects that Mr. Marner teaches. I have changed my focus in school, I use to not even turn work in on time or I just forgot to turn it in at all, but Mr. Marner showed me ways of remembering and getting it done. I've learned how to ask how to ask for help because I never liked asking for help. When I learned not asking for help affected my schooling, I started asking Mr. Marner for help and he willingly helped me. I changed my behavior in school as well- I used to always be in trouble and late to class but I started to mature and get better in school thanks to Mr. Marner's help.

Mr. Marner is the teacher I chose because I firmly believe in my heart Mr. Marner is the best teacher in the world and all around teacher and person. I believe that Mr. Marner is a

teacher that is a worthy and grateful candidate for this award. Mr. Marner is a teacher that stands out from all the other teachers because he's always doing things for everyone no matter who they are he is always helping his community in any way he can.