



2016

Educator Comments

BECKY COOPER

I feel extraordinarily lucky to greet each day saying, I get to go to ATYP! There's no other work so worthy and exciting to me. I find that students want to be engaged and challenged. By providing an atmosphere that fosters exploration and dialogue, I believe our students learn the size of their minds. As teachers, we must help our students gain confidence in their abilities and voices. Once they feel that sense of discovery and empowerment, they are on the path toward shaping their destinies.

I believe the process of writing and the exploration of literature are two powerful means for getting students prepared to use their critical reasoning skills to overcome the obstacles that life will inevitably place in their journey. By studying the human condition, students appreciate life's joys, both small and great.

WENDY S. MILLER

As a social studies teacher I strive to ensure an understanding of how our government and society works, as well as the role each of us plays in making sure they work efficiently and effectively for all who make up our society.

Teaching students to be independent thinkers, self-directed learners and contributing members of society are goals for all who take part in my classes.

CHRISTOPHER C. CHOPP

When I asked Nikita about memorable experiences from class she shared this story. 'It was the day of the AP Calculus Exam, so there were only a few students in the classroom. ...During that day, we spent almost the entire hour drawing diagrams and trying to figure out if the configurations had an effect. I still remember that by the end of class, our brains were fried after making punnet squares and drawings of chromosomes. In that class period, however, I realized that working with you and the other students was such a crucial component to understanding the problem. Each one of the students brought their own views to the table and it was one of those instances during which I felt like I was a part of a scientific team trying to figure out an answer to a question. More importantly, however, it showed the extent of involvement, creative thinking, and discussion that took place in your classroom, which helped me become a better science student overall throughout the year.' Dive in deep with students, learn along side them, and let the creative discussions flow.

MATTHEW MUSIALCZYK

As teachers we are charged with empowering our students to succeed within their academic goals and aspirations. Sometimes, as teachers, we are lucky enough to have a student who displays such remarkable attributes that we realize that they will achieve greatness. Judy Smith is one of those special students.

Even in 6th grade I knew that Judy was a remarkable student. She was smart, energetic, eager to learn yet humble and friendly to all students around her. As teachers sometimes we don't equip our students, we merely give them a mirror and allow them to see the special gifts that they possess and allow them to soar.

BRAD PORTIS

I realize that my students will face challenges in their future far greater than I can simulate in the classroom. I know that they will reach for goals that are far beyond what they can probably even imagine right now. I try to help my students achieve well beyond what they may have initially believed they could accomplish. I try to push them past their “comfort zone” but into an area that is still within their reach and become very productive. This allows students to re-focus their future goals higher and more realistically. It also helps build self confidence and independent initiative that our young people will need when teachers and parents are no longer around. My goal is to build confidence by helping students test their limits, persevere and achieve. Sarah, Brian, Lucy and Hannah have all challenged themselves, both athletically and academically. Each has taken on challenges that were not required; but because they wanted to achieve in yet another area. They are super people not only because of their accomplishments and personalities; but because they are willing to extend themselves in order to grow. It is students like these who not only impress me; but inspire me to continue giving my best because they do.

JEREMY ZONTS

People always say it takes a strange person to teach middle school... I find that to be true, as I am far from normal. I love middle school because middle school students still think it's cool to like their teacher, yet can maintain a conversation with thoughtfulness and intelligence. Austen was a "thinker" in my sixth-grade classroom. He had a passion for learning and always strived for excellence. Rocking his Justin Bieber hairdo, Austen always had a smile on his face. I remember him being kind, caring and a positive role model.

Not only did I have the opportunity to have Austen in my classroom, I was able to cheer him on in wrestling and football. Austen had that "it" factor and everyone respected his work ethic and calm demeanor. I am proud to have had the opportunity to watch Austen succeed! I know that he will continue to flourish and I am excited to witness this journey!

SHANNON HOUTROUW

Reflecting upon my philosophy of education, I am clearly not the most knowledgeable instructor, neither am I the best communicator, nor the most interesting lecturer. My role is more closely akin to that of Tom Sawyer, as he set about the task of whitewashing that iconic fence. Sawyer figured out how to get a lot of kids excited about doing hard work. Before long others were eager to participate. They became a team, they accomplished something challenging, yet worthwhile, and they had a lot of fun doing it.

Learning computer science can be a lot like whitewashing that fence. What might appear tedious and lonely can actually be fun and exciting. The harder you work, the more fun you have. Perspective is the key. Having a team spirit in the educational process can really enhance that perspective! Congrats class of 2016! You have been a team to be proud of!

MICHAEL SINCLAIR

It's pretty simple: provide every student with the opportunity to succeed, push them as hard as possible, and be there for them whenever they need support.

Be passionate, be enthusiastic, and encourage them to dream.

MARK CARDWELL

It is a privilege and a great pleasure to work with students who are curious, motivated and relentless.

When we provide opportunities for students to stretch themselves and they reach beyond, we are often as enriched by the experience as they are.

I want to thank my students for making my job fun and fulfilling and for inspiring me daily. Thank you.

JOSHUA GOTTLIEB

I am so lucky to have students like Emily. People so often talk about what we as teachers give to our students. It is too often overlooked how much students give to us. It is students like Emily, those with incredible ability and enthusiasm, that make it so fun to come to work in the morning. Without students like Emily, the job would just be staff meetings.

REX HAFFER

My students have always made me a better teacher and person, but none more than Tiffany. You showed me how to be a better leader. You taught me patience and that there was always a smile to be had in every day. You taught me that a bright-eyed freshman can turn into the best student leader I have seen in my career. You taught me that knowledge is power and to never underestimate you. Sadly, you have proven to me that our entire school will miss you next year.

Thank you for being the best you could be every day and the greatest role model for us all, especially Brin.

BRIANNA M. ENGLISH

A top objective of my AP English Language and Composition class is to prepare students to be strong writers at a college level. Megan Zabik surpassed my expectations and continuously impressed me with the quality and growth of her writing. Megan is a thoughtful, hardworking, and caring student and person, and I'm extremely fortunate to have had her in my class.

I'm extremely fortunate to work with amazing, talented, creative, thoughtful students every day and watch them learn and grow. I've been able to watch Sami Brown grow over the last four years from a motivated freshman to the highly skilled, reliable, and intellectual young woman she is today, and I'm very proud of everything she's accomplished while at Loy Norrix.

DALE FREELAND

I try to provide opportunities for students showing everyday applications of classroom topics. The Internet of Things is an area that allows students to see applications of some physics topics and encourages students to imagine applications that will improve life. Continue to pursue excellence in all that you do.

JON TAYLOR

The best part of learning is finding out what you don't already know and then seeking to find those answers. If we knew everything life would be too boring!

BRYAN HILL

Studying another language gives students the opportunity to develop abilities and perspectives that will make them better linguists, thinkers and most importantly, global citizens. I strive to provide a positive and engaging setting where my students can take risks, explore cultures and grow in their communication skills. Whether they pursue travel, professions or cross-cultural friendships, my hope is that my students will utilize their Spanish abilities to connect with others and inspire positive change wherever life takes them.

JEANINE PATTERSON

I am truly lucky to be able to combine my passions of educating students and the love of business. I try to inspire my students to think critically about the world around them. I challenge them to think about whom, not just what, they want to be become and how they are going to fit into society. I remind them to take hold of the opportunities today and use that knowledge wisely in the years to come.

The next Steve Jobs could be sitting in this room and I have my eye on you, Nolan Smith. I know your imprint on this world will be an incredible one.

BILL HOFFMAN

It was an honor to contribute to Ryan's acquiring knowledge, skill, and vision for life enabling him to contribute to the improvement of God's world. Ryan is a young man who thinks critically and works diligently. I trust he will seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with God.

DOUGLAS MARTIN

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