



MVTHS Teacher of the Week

Teresa J. Black

Subjects Taught: AP American History, Sociology and Psychology.

Education and Experience: Graduate of Southern Illinois University at Carbondale with a B.A. in Social Studies/Secondary Education. Currently completing course work for a Masters in Educational Psychology with an emphasis on Marriage and Family Counseling.

Years as a Teacher: 25.

Reason for Becoming a Teacher: "It is impossible to identify a single greatest moment in my career, but it is always gratifying to talk with former students two, five, or even 10 years after they graduate from high school. It is humbling when students tell me how much they enjoyed my class, and surprising to hear that contrary to what I was thinking at the time — they really were paying attention."



Most Embarrassing Moment as a Teacher: "When two of my male students, dressed in drag, were pulled over by police for speeding en route to lunch. After the policeman informed the students it was illegal to cross-dress in Jefferson County, the students responded that the clothes were for a school assignment required by Mrs. Black. In my defense, the assignment was legitimate — for a social/psychology experiment. Needless to say, I heard about it from my students."

Favorite Aspect of Being a Teacher: "Daily interaction with my students. Each day is unique. They bring fresh perspective of the world to my classroom."

Favorite Movie: "Wuthering Heights."

Last Book You Read: "Oil," by Upton Sinclair.

Hobbies: "Bicycling, running, walking, photography, painting (art), jewelry making, needlepoint, attending sporting events, reading, spoiling my grandchildren and traveling."

Family: Married to Terry R. Black; children Derek and Elliott Hedin, stepchildren Amanda and Alex Black.

If You Were Not a Teacher, What Would You Be?: "Photojournalist."

Person(s) You Most Admire: "My mother. She was also a teacher and instilled in me at an early age the importance of education. She also taught me important life lessons such as setting goals, respecting others and being true to yourself."

