



MVTHS Teacher of the Week

Jamey VanZandt

Subject Taught: Communication Arts — American literature, technical/creative writing and writing for publication I and II, co-advisor for student council and JA-VA magazine, advisor to Vernois Yearbook and Vernois News, advisor at large for the Little Egypt District of Student Councils



Education and Experience: Bachelor of Arts degree in English-history, SIU-C, 1991; master's of science degree, educational administration, EIU, 1999; and education specialist, educational administration, EIU, 2007. Worked at Casey Middle School from 1993-1994 and MVTHS from 1994 to present.

Years as a Teacher: 17.

Reason for Becoming a Teacher: "I greatly admired my teachers at Sesser-Valier High School throughout high school (1983-1987). Their influence had a real impact on me in deciding to enter education."

Greatest Moment as a Teacher: "I was named the MAnion W. Rice Advisor of the Year at the annual Southern Illinois School Press Association Conference at SIU-C in 2005, but being recognized by the MVTHS Class of 1955 with a \$5,000 grant for the Vernois Publications program in 2007 was very, very humbling."

Most Embarrassing Moment as a Teacher: "While teaching 'The Adventures of Huckleberry Fin' last spring, in my zeal to move to the next point in the discussion, I accidentally combined Huck's first name with his last, and, well, you can figure out what I said."

Favorite Aspect of Being a Teacher: "Knowing that what I do and say in the classroom can change the course of a young person's path in life."

Favorite Movie: "The Trip to Bountiful," 1985

Last Book You Read: "Losing Mum and Pup," by Christopher Buckley.

Hobbies: "I enjoy yard work, auto detailing and looking for antiques."

If You Were Not a Teacher, What Would You Be?: "I would become a realtor or a funeral director."



Person(s) You Most Admire: "My grandfather, Bill Muir, is one of the persons I admire most — throughout his lifetime, he worked extremely hard, took care of and loved his family, and was known for his wonderful detailed and funny stories at family gatherings. His greatness came in his humility."

10/27/09