



Mr. Wayne Morgan

Most students tend to view physical education classes with indifference. Health and P.E. are required courses, but not usually engaging or worth remembering. Frederick "Wayne" Morgan, however, proved that all it took was a passionate educator to reverse these stereotypes.

"Wayne always pushed students to be their best in his classroom," daughter Mandi Fletcher said. "He didn't see PE as just another elective; he saw it as an avenue for reaching those students who might struggle in their academic classes, as a way to teach responsibility and good work habits in an alternate setting."

After graduating from Mars Hill with a Bachelor degree of Science in Health and Physical Education, Morgan was employed by East Henderson High School as a P.E. teacher. Throughout the duration of his employment at EHHS, Morgan filled the roles of biology, health, and physical education teacher. Morgan taught healthy living to his students for 30 years at EHHS, demonstrating his commitment to Henderson County and its students. He was recognized as the Teacher of the Year by his colleagues in 1993 for this reason.

"Wayne taught me the value of student-teacher relationships, teacher-teacher relationships, tough love for our students, but also the art of professionalism in the field of education," former colleague John Johnston said. "Wayne's teachings went well past 'book education' and taught the value of the human element."

Alongside his teaching, Morgan managed to juggle additional workloads due to his coaching of football, men and women's track, basketball, volleyball, and even gymnastics. Most notably, Morgan managed to found the Lady Eagle invitational track meet, which brought together twenty some teams across Western North Carolina.

"Not only did he help the athletes at East reach higher levels of skill but his setting up and pushing for large track meets at East helped to raise the performance levels for all of Henderson and surrounding counties that participated," former supervisor Carl Sanders said.

And if that were not enough to prove Morgan's passion for physical education, he also developed the Adventure Education curriculum, which is the program many former students recount as being particularly memorable.

"It's been 24 years since that class and I still have such incredible memories from learning about camping, rock climbing, cooking on a camp stove and basic survival skills," former student Allison Ford said. "This class taught me perseverance and leadership; hiking up a steep mountain while carrying a 40-pound backpack to camp in the snow showed me that I can do anything."

Morgan began affiliations with the North Carolina Teaching Academy in 1996. During this time, he gave fellow teachers advice specialized in Differentiation, Integrated Curriculums, and Multiple

Intelligences. Morgan worked with this program to train teachers each summer until 2010.

Morgan also found himself teaching individuals outside of the classroom. As a Ski Patroller, Morgan kept people safe on the slopes. He was awarded the National Paid Ski Patroller of the Year Award in 2005.

Morgan retired from teaching in 2002, after 28 years of teaching for Henderson County. No longer a public school educator, Morgan now works full-time as a "Paw Paw" to his grandchildren.

Through his passion for teaching and dedication to the county, Morgan has left an irreplaceable mark on Henderson County and in his student's hearts. In the end, nothing can better encapsle Morgan's attitude towards teaching and life than his own words, which are immortalized in the 1993 EHHS yearbook.

"Teaching and coaching are one and the same. To be successful in either you must be consistent, fair and disciplined. Your students learn from you by what you are, not what you say you are. Only when your students grasp the concept of where they are going will they be able to figure out how to get there."



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