



2022

Educator Comments

Shay Wintz

“I strive to equip students in the future by first establishing an authentic relationship. I must know each and every student in order to know how to serve them properly and successfully. I do not believe in busy work, so every item brought to the table has a real purpose and meaning. I pick pieces of literature that will change perspective, give insight, and add value. I scan every student for weaknesses, so I can help strengthen them. Lastly, I believe in their abilities and their futures. I hold high expectations, and I refuse to budge. Student will rise when the expectations are set clearly and with rigor.”

Rex Hafer

“The secret to great teaching is having amazing and motivated students. Michael is at the top of that heap. I’m certain that he has equipped me for several more years of teaching through his dedication and emotional support than I have equipped him for anything. I hope Michael took half away from me as I took from him through the last two years. A person like him will not easily be replaced. Thank you, Michael for helping me love teaching again...even if it always comes back to Shays’ Rebellion.”

Colleen Chapoton

“These amazing students are creative, inquisitive, kind, thoughtful, diligent, and passionate. When you challenge them to fly, they will soar. I go to work every day with a smile on my face because I have the opportunity to see talented students who reflect my passion for science right back at me. Thank you so much for showing me how amazing this world can be. I am so very proud of these scholars, and I already know that their future contributions to science will improve our society. I am truly honored to know them, and I am so very fortunate to have been a part of their journey. The light they radiate makes this world a better place. Congratulations!”

James Hemenway

“I like to guide young individuals that are interested in a career in finance; providing them all the information that I can so they understand how many different options within finance, from individual finance/financial planning to corporate/treasury management. Also, how finance crosses so many other fields and having the ability to choose which subspecialty drives them.”

Elizabeth Honeysett

“My goal is to help students fail safely and learn from their failures, take risks, and realize their fullest potential, not just in school, but in life.”

Laura Citino

“Teaching, to me, means modeling for students what it looks like to be a widely-interested, compassionate, and nuanced scholar. It all starts with my own excitement and engagement for the material. I love teaching English, philosophy, and media studies because of the endless perspectives and texts to explore; I’m constantly bringing to my curriculum the same books, ideas, authors, and movements I’m obsessed with in my own reading and writing life. I love seeing them tackle complex, chewy questions about what it means to be human in this (and any!) era and do it within a collegial, supportive community.

Continued

Laura Citino

“We citizens of planet Earth always return to the humanities, which are truly the human sciences, to find the answers to those questions that have dogged us for millennia. Offering students their first forays into some of those timeless conversations through a variety of authors and voices -- try this, have you read this, have you heard of this, check this one out -- means bringing students into the fold as writers and scholars in their own right. Treating them like peers, taking their ideas seriously, and fostering their creative and critical thought is the most important work I do. I am grateful for each and every opportunity I have to connect with students via literature, language, and the world of ideas.”

Krista Hovestadt

“My goal as a school counselor is to help my students maximize their success by supporting their academic, career and social emotional development. It is such a privilege to know and work with students like Vikas Tatineni. Vikas is a phenomenal young man whose innate drive for excellence is inspiring. He has a true love of learning, strives for personal growth and works tirelessly at making a positive impact in his school and in his community. I can't wait to see what the future holds for Vikas and all of the amazing things he will accomplish. Vikas is destined for great things. Thank you, Vikas, for allowing me to be a part of your journey.”

Jacqueline Pora

“I am passionate about engaging students in a new language and learning about new cultures. I love to see students gain confidence in speaking Spanish while also discovering more about English.

Moreover, our world is shrinking in many ways and speaking another language and having an understanding of other cultures equips students for the future and interaction with others from all over the world.”

Al Nieboer

“Congratulations to all students receiving the Excellence in Education Scholarship. Your outstanding achievement is due not only to the many gifts and talents you have been blessed with, but also a result of focus, persistence, and hard work. Sara, you have used your gifts extremely well and worked very hard. You are a superb scholar, focused learner, effective leader, and a quality individual. Thanks for all your contributions and leadership in the classroom and on Quiz Bowl and TEAMS. You have made the most of your education and show so much promise for your future studies and career. It has been an honor and pleasure to have had you as a student. Blessings to you as you move on to this next phase of your life.”

Doug Robinson

“The greatest quote I first heard early in my teaching career kind of summed up my teaching philosophy and it was simply this ‘Students don’t care how much you know, until they know how much you care.’ This is something I have tried to live out and exhibit to my students throughout my 42 years as a teacher. It is because of this I believe it has allowed me to impact my students and thus equip them for their futures.”

Shannon Houtrouw

“In three years of working with Anthony Alvarez in computer science, there was not a single day where he did not pursue excellence in his studies. Early in his sophomore year his diligence compelled me to add him to our varsity programming team. All through the challenges of COVID and virtual classes Anthony maintained high standards in his work ethic and in his academic integrity. He continues to advance and develop himself as a student, as a programmer, and as an individual. I am blessed to be able to work with Anthony. His many accolades and honors are well-deserved. Congratulations Anthony, I am so very proud of you.”

Michael Sinclair

“Given that I’ve had the privilege of teaching some of the smartest students in Michigan, my focus has been to prepare them for the next steps in both their academic and personal experiences. I’ve always emphasized hard work, making intelligent and thoughtful decisions, and to actively seek to find their passion...in education, in learning, in life. These young people have unlimited opportunities before them, and I am absolutely certain that they know that I support them completely and unequivocally. Always having someone in their corner is one of the most important ways to equip students for the future.”

Kristin Antoniotti

“Relationships. Relationships. Relationships. My hope is that students leave my classroom with a greater understanding of how to be in healthy relationships with themselves and with others so that what we co-create when we are together is a community rooted in care focused on uplifting each other and creating positive change in the world.”

