

## Voices

### Q: Tell us about your favorite teacher



I had many great teachers during my school years. The one that stood out as my favorite was my ninth-grade art teacher Roberta Wallack. When I first met Ms. Wallack, she was a breath of fresh air to me. I was comfortable with her and felt on common ground. I didn't think I could draw, nor did I believe I knew anything about art. But, Ms. Wallack's presence and love for art made me appreciate art as much as she did. I remember the hardest project I had in her class. We had to cut out a picture from the newspaper, draw it and then paint it. I was proud of myself, as was Ms. Wallack, with how well the project came out. She gave me an "A" for it. Ms. Wallack instilled confidence in me that I'm capable of doing

things beyond what I've ever expected of myself. Ms. Wallack was a wonderful person that I'm thankful I had in my life. She passed away from cancer, far too young. Thank you, Ms. Wallack, for being a great teacher and the great person that helped me believe in myself.

**--Anitra Arrington '93, Grants Office**

So far this school year I would have to say my favorite teacher is Mrs. Newman. Mrs. Newman is my favorite teacher because she explains math in ways that I can understand and remember. Mrs. Newman acts kind of like how us kids act, but more adult-like. She also makes math really fun and funny. Also, with her math isn't a headache, it's more of an easy, everyday thing. She doesn't give that much homework, too! Mrs. Newman is a nice, fun, funny, caring teacher. That's why she is my favorite teacher.

**--Iyanna Byrd, eighth grade  
Stephen and Harriet Myers Middle School**





I'm having a great time at Hackett Middle School. I really like the new building. My favorite teacher is Ms. VanDyke because I like Social Studies, she is nice and she is my homeroom teacher. I've had a great experience so far at Hackett Middle School.

**--John Dimase, sixth grade  
William S. Hackett Middle School**

Last year I began my two-year International Baccalaureate Program. It was intimidating and challenging but one teacher really made me feel capable, Margot Plumadore. She was more than a math teacher, she was a mentor and a friend. She always made herself available for tutoring, especially after school. Ms. Plumadore treated us as equals and always went the extra mile to make sure we reached our full potential. For example, we had an internal assessment due last spring for math. The entire class was working up until the deadline and Ms. Plumadore stayed up all night grading the assessments so they could be in on time. That's the type of teacher she is, always invested in her students.



**--Rose Germano, senior, Albany High School**

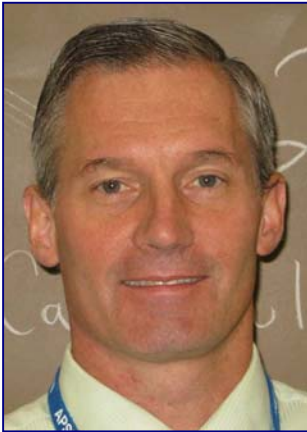


I had a lot of interesting teachers but the best one is Mrs. Goldman. She is a nice and caring person. She helps us when we're unsure about our work. She also makes learning fun. An example of it is when we do experiments like weighing blocks or measuring water. Mrs. Goldman also puts experiences of her own that she had into learning. When we're in the computer lab she makes learning even better by giving us assignments that are challenging but fun. Mrs. Goldman is the BEST.

**--Shaun Franklin, fifth grade  
Pine Hills Elementary School**

I have so many teachers that are my favorite. Their names include Mrs. Gebhardt, Ms. Thompson, Mrs. Palella and Mrs. Cirigliano. If I had to choose one, I would pick Mrs. Cirigliano because she is hilarious and caring. The other teachers are funny and nice, too, but I had a special friendship with her. She knows my little brother, Rodney. Also, her daughter and Rodney are in the same class.

**--Kayla Hemingway, fourth grade  
Giffen Memorial Elementary School**



My favorite high school teacher was Mr. Cark, my PE teacher and wrestling coach. He ran very structured programs, which at that point in my life I needed. I believe his teaching style is ingrained in me! At the collegiate level, I would have to give this honor to Mr. Jocelyn, my Calculus teacher. He challenged me to look for the exquisite functions of various mathematical applications. Using pi as an example, he captured my interest and I never waned from wanting to learn, including content from other courses.

**--Daniel McCarthy, science teacher  
Albany High School**

My favorite teacher has to be Ms. McQuade. The reason that she is my favorite teacher is because she keeps it real. She doesn't make class boring. We always do fun activities. Ms. McQuade treats us as if we are her own kids. I have a lot of respect for Ms. McQuade and if I had to choose a teacher I could keep forever, it would be her.

**--Taylor Wright, freshman  
Harriet Gibbons High School**

