

Mr. Victor
Period A
August 18, 2014

Dear Students,

In introducing myself to you, I am married, a father of two children, have two dogs, live in the neighborhood, love sports, traveling, the outdoors, film, theatre, exercising, being active, and have an abundance of energy. I am lucky to be married to a wonderful person who loves me for who I am. My wife is a nurse and my kids both attended GOMS, but are now both at Rocklin High School.

I love teaching at GO, and I really hope that you all have an amazing year with me as I am very excited about sharing this year with you and getting to know all of you. What you might want to know about me is that I have both a serious and playful side. I am earnest about teaching, making sure that everyone learns the skills and Language Arts standards required to be successful not only in my class, but also on the state tests. I will work you all very hard and will help you along the way. I know that education is so important for all your lives that I can not let any of you take it for granted while in my class. In order to help achieve this goal of mine for all of you, I use humor and some rather zany techniques as we work through our day to day lessons. You may or may not laugh at or with me, but you should get a sense that there are few dull moments in our class. A challenge for you might be to understand that when I am serious, you need to be too; and, that when I am goofing around and say, "Okay, that's enough let's get back on track," we need to get back to work. Truly my approach is trying to fill your heads with an abundance of knowledge while having some fun along the way.

If I was looking back over my life for a teacher or educational moment that had a positive impact on my life, it would be the challenge I received from Dr. Roselee Kelley. During my junior college years at St. Petersburg Junior College, I remember having a conversation with Dr. Kelley that greatly impacted my future. I told her that I wanted to become an English teacher even though English was not my favorite subject growing up, not to mention that I had missed all those lessons by not taking the subject seriously. I made this decision because I thought I could keep other kids from making some of those same mistakes I made years ago. She understood my desire but said to me, "Take Mr. Richardson's Composition II course because he is the toughest English teacher on our staff. If you can get an 'A' in his class, you will be fine. However, if you can't get an 'A,' you might want to reconsider that choice." So, I took Mr. Richardson's class and he was indeed a hard teacher but one with a heart and passion for his subject. I worked beyond my capabilities and received an "A" in his class. That challenge is what made me realize that I needed to seek out and find those "tough" teachers because I learned the most from them and they opened more doors for me in my life's journey.

What I would like to leave all of you with is how I am truly unique. I am sure that you will notice I dress and act differently from most of my peers on campus. However, I hope you come to realize that appearance isn't everything. See, what makes me stand out from others is that I am just me. I act, look, talk, work, and so on differently from others, but don't judge them for that nor care what others think of me. I have come to realize that life is not about being popular, pleasing everyone, or being bogged down by what others might think. Instead, what is important to me is that I do and try my best always because in the end, I will be able to say that what victories and failures I attained along the way were all mine and that my life was certainly not dull or ruled by others. To give an old saying a twist, "friends may come and go," but you have to be a friend to yourself first and foremost.

I look forward to our year together and may we reach some cherished ground at the end.

Sincerely,
Mr. Victor