

Russ Paul
Star Teacher

A student will hopefully meet many teachers throughout their lives that instill them with passion for a subject, but very seldom does a teacher appear that can resonate with a student, allowing them to grow not only academically but as an individual.

I met Mr. Paul in my freshman year English class; this sarcastic man always presented heavy expectations on his students, but never did I ever truly feel overwhelmed. Sure, I still have nightmares about the product pitch to this day, but Mr. Paul taught me that you can turn carbon into a diamond with proper pressure.

When I first entered his public speaking class during my sophomore year of high school, I was still the quiet little loner kid from middle school; ideal prey if you prefer to put it that way. My first speech, I had to talk for two minutes, and between nervousness and essentially auditioning to be a Jimmy John's employee, I barely managed forty seconds speaking before panicking. From there, he pulled me aside; he gave me notes and tailored, genuine feedback throughout my entire high school career.

I respect Mr. Paul because he is real. When he gave advice I took it, slowly yet exponentially, and soon turned into a monstrosity that Gaston Early College will never be able to forget. With his help and encouragement, I became the rocket man, the producer of the news team, and a smiling face of encouragement to my peers.

I would not be the guy I am today if this great instructor did not teach me that I have the power to change the man in the mirror to the man of my aspirations. From one theatre geek at heart to another, my sincerest gratitude.

Logan Abee
Gaston Early College High School
Star Student 2019



Gaston County Schools