Michael Kaufman
Star Teacher

It is rare that you get to have a teacher for four classes. I had the privilege of learning Math II Honors, Precalculus I Honors, AP Calculus AB, and AP Statistics from Mr. Kaufman. This means he has gotten to know the awkward freshman version of me, the overwhelmed junior, and the mellowed (kind of) senior.

When I first walked into Math II Honors on the first day of high school, Mr. Kaufman was the most intimidating person I met. He takes teaching very seriously, and does not tolerate the tomfoolery I was accustomed to in middle school. It was the first time I had to be pushed and work hard in a class. Not only was I challenged by the class, I also looked forward to it. We were constantly playing Jeopardy review games and learning in a way that made math make sense.

Once I pursued the more rigorous math courses, I found a version of Mr. Kaufman who was just as excellent a teacher, but also one who started to shed the stern exterior and joke around with our class. He was always finding ways to make Calc and Stats more fun, whether it was making us a class playlist or letting us work outside. Being a great teacher is an achievement, but Mr. Kaufman also is an exceptional person. He genuinely cares about his students. He has a little space in his room where students can take a pack of ramen noodles or a bag of fruit snacks with a sign that says "take what you need, no questions asked." He shares excitement over the students accomplishments, and goes above and beyond when you need help understanding a topic.

There are so many more examples I could give to show how Mr. Kaufman has impacted my high school career, but I will share my favorite. He lets every student who gets an 'A' in an AP class paint a board for him to put on his classroom wall to remember us by. Though I do not have a board I have painted for Mr. Kaufman, I will always remember him as the best teacher I ever had, and a positive impact on my high school years.

Allie Grice
East Gaston High School
Star Student 2022

Star TEACHER-STUDENT

Gaston County Schools