

Joseph Yavelak **Star Teacher**

Throughout my four years at Highland School of Technology, I have been incredibly fortunate to be surrounded by such a great faculty that is genuinely concerned with students' success. Not only is everyone's dedication truly outstanding, but their persistence in consistently pushing us to become the best versions of ourselves and to reach our full potential is something I have come to really appreciate. In that way, Mr. Yavelak is the epitome of a Star Teacher.

I have had Mr. Yavelak for Precalculus, AP Statistics, and currently, AP Computer Science Principles over the last three years. His incomparable teaching style, remarkable ability to explain complicated concepts in simple terms, and overall presence to answer the many questions that I had has enabled me to develop a solid foundation for all math I might encounter in college and in the future.

I specifically remember the time when Mr. Yavelak asked me what I wanted to major in, and as a sophomore, I was still at a loss. He strongly encouraged me to enroll in AP Computer Science Principles, and I did. His class has undoubtedly pushed me out of my comfort zone and has exposed me to an entirely new field that I was previously aware existed, but knew next to nothing about. In all, I've really enjoyed his class, especially since he made it as interesting and collaborative as he could. At the same time, I found it quite enlightening as well since it enabled me to realize that computer science might not be the best fit for me to pursue. For that, I will always be thankful.

I cannot thank you enough, Mr. Yavelak, but thank you so much for everything.

Priya Shah
Highland School of Technology
Star Student 2018



Gaston County Schools