

Matthew Denham **Star Teacher**

When I was told that I was receiving this recognition and I needed to pick a teacher that has influenced me, it was a no-brainer of who I would pick. I have been privileged enough to have had Coach Denham as a teacher for two classes during high school. Even though I did not have him as a teacher until my junior year, I had already heard a lot about him from students who had him before me.

I first had him as a teacher for American History, and from the first day, I knew he was a cool teacher. Coach Denham is incredibly personable. He finds a way to relate to every single one of his students. In doing so, he also creates a bond in his classrooms that provides an environment that you don't see often. I have never been in any other classes that truly compare to the feeling of being in his classroom. He knows how to relate to students and get them to enjoy the material he teaches.

This past fall, I had him as a teacher for American Military History. During this time, I was applying for college and that definitely put a lot of stress on me. Coach Denham knew how to encourage me to do my best. He told me that if a school isn't meant to be to not stress over it, and that as one door closes, another door opens to another opportunity. He always pushes us to succeed inside and outside of his classroom. He wants every single student of his to succeed and to reach their goals.

Coach Denham has had a huge impact on me during my high school years. I truly could not thank him enough for his encouragement and kindness. He is the kind of teacher you want to make proud.

Jersey Beattie
Bessemer City High School
Star Student 2023

