

Lessons Learned From Mr. Evans

By Ellie Arrowsmith, Bailey Farris, and Alex Safarz



It saddens us to imagine Amherst Middle School without Mr. Evans teaching language arts in grade seven. Mr. Evans is a man of integrity and compassion, who genuinely cares for his students. Each year he makes it a point to connect with his students both inside and outside of the classroom. He takes the time to learn about his students. He remembers to wish his students good luck in an upcoming concert or sports game and then follow up on Monday. He truly cares about his students. Mr. Evans makes teaching personal, and as a result, we benefit.

Learning vocabulary and grammar is fun in Mr. Evans's class. We simply didn't memorize definitions of words and grammar rules. We immersed ourselves in each word's meaning and understood why conventions are important. We talked about each vocabulary word and its use in context, formed groups to act out its meaning, created a word wall in the classroom, and illustrated grammar rules. As students, we internalized our vocabulary and grammar lessons. As a result, our vocabulary grew and our word choice and conventions in our writing improved.

Mr. Evans taught us to make our writing our own by using voice, personality, and detail. During the Wells Speech Unit, he spent hours with students preparing them for their speech presentations. For those of us who didn't feel as confident in public speaking, he helped us find an inner strength in speaking in front of an audience. He provided us a supportive and positive environment to express ourselves. We knew he believed in us and our ability, and we in turn, trusted his guidance and began to believe in ourselves.

Mr. Evans not only taught us language arts lessons, but lessons we will carry with us outside of school. His cheery attitude never wavered, even in the hardest of times. He showed us that there are people willing to help students in time of need. He helped us when we felt overwhelmed. Mr. Evans proved to us that anyone can "catch-up" when falling behind by simply starting at the beginning. He showed understanding and empathy to all students.

We think one of the most important lessons Mr. Evans taught us is it's more important to give than take. He reminded us that there is more to give than just objects. We learned to give our classmates words of encouragement, patience, and friendship. Mr. Evans is truly a teacher who devotes his time, energy, kindness and guidance to everyone, and we appreciate him greatly.

While writing about Mr. Evans, we discovered that there isn't one word that describes him, but countless words. He is a teacher who understands and gives endlessly, genuinely cares, is unselfish, goofy, incredible, kind, extraordinary, happy, encouraging, carefree, engaging and fabulous. There are of course many more words to describe Mr. Evans, but more importantly, what we will always remember about him is that he never had a bad day.

Mr. Evans, we will keep all that you have taught us forever. You are without a doubt, one of the greatest teachers to ever walk the halls of Amherst Middle School. We have the courage to learn from our mistakes, pursue our dreams, and give to others because of you. Thank you, Mr. Evans!