

Student`s name: Rohith Venkataraman

Grade: 10th

School: Charter School of Wilmington

District: Red Clay School District

Teacher's name: Dr. David Brown

Teacher's subject: Computer Science

Each day, students congregate in front of the door to 306B eagerly awaiting the arrival of their teacher. The students know that they are about to enter one of the classes in which the teacher inspires, motivates, and assists high school students to excel in various fields of computing. Dr. Brown inspires students to achieve their full potential in information science studies.

Challenge is the fundamental force that motivates students to go beyond the school curriculum to amass a deeper understanding of concepts. Dr. Brown ensures to challenge each student by insisting that students try to solve their problems individually. He believes that every student has innate talent, potential, and originality that combined with proper nurture and guidance can lead to excellence.

Beyond the school curriculum, Dr. Brown ensures that he is always accessible to students. Dr. Brown has helped numerous students to complete research in advanced topics in computing; their papers have been published and presented at professional conferences across the world. It is interesting to note that the acceptance rate for the conferences is 25-39% from authors worldwide and to be able to achieve this as a high school student is commendable. On a personal level, I am thrilled to be working on a research project in human and computer interaction. I am thankful

to Dr. Brown for providing motivation, support, and opening a wide range of possibilities that the mind can explore.

Dr. Brown continually bestows the American Dream to each batch of students he teaches. Using an ostensibly unconventional method of teaching, he delivers the material in a memorable way for the future computer scientists of America. Dr. Brown instills an “I can” attitude among high school students during their impressionable age when they are exploring all possibilities before stepping into higher education. In this day and age, when we hear about other countries excelling over USA in academics, teachers like Dr. Brown are the turning stones for USA. If we have more teachers like Dr. Brown, our country will bear the torch of being the academic Mecca for innovation and excellence.

Student: Kyle Plusch
11th Grade
Charter School of Wilmington
Red Clay Consolidated School District

Teacher: Rose Lounsbury
AP Biology

Students today possess little motivation in school mainly because their teachers demonstrate a clear lack of enthusiasm for educating. If more teachers ran their courses comparable to Mrs. Lounsbury's AP Biology class, a radical change would occur in students' attitude toward school. I personally look forward to every Biology class not only because I enjoy the subject matter, but also because of the engaging, passionate, and humorous teaching style of Mrs. Lounsbury.

When somebody clearly loves what they are doing, an aura of infectious energy and happiness positively affects anyone they come into contact with, inside the classroom or outside. Even before enrolling in AP Biology, I knew Mrs. Lounsbury from my involvement in Science Olympiad, a national science competition that our school frequently attends by way of winning the state competition. Science Olympiad requires a massive time commitment, and Mrs. Lounsbury's dedication to S.O and her classes demonstrates true devotion to the science department. In the classroom, we never receive the same lesson twice. Whether she is drawing diagrams on the Smartboard, setting up an interesting and meaningful lab, or showing us a video on DNA replication, every class provides new and exciting ways to learn. Another unique aspect about Mrs. Lounsbury's teaching lies in the fact that she does not "teach to the test." The material we cover often goes beyond the textbook, with entire classes or lectures occurring to expound on an intriguing topic that the textbook merely touches on.

Many teachers view high school students that lack interest as a "lost cause." In reality, those teachers exist as the reason that the students find little about school exciting. For example, when talking about the effect of too much water on cells, a teacher may say "With too much

water, a hypotonic solution occurs and the cells burst. The end.” rather than adding “the pressure on the cell walls is so great, each cell violently bursts open as your organs implode!” Mrs. Lounsbury definitely personifies the second example. No class is ever boring or normal, and enjoyment stands as a rule rather than an exception!

Anudeep Udumula
Ninth Grade
The Charter School of Wilmington
Red Clay Consolidated School District

Mrs. Ott
Math

Life-changers. Motivators. Mentors. Teachers do much more than teach. They give. They take pride in the knowledge they give their students. They shape the nation, molding the next generation. They harness the strengths of their students and lead them towards the beacon of knowledge. And no matter how much responsibility is thrust into their hands, teachers never fail in their quest to bring the best out of every student. Teachers may not always garner the same respect as other professions, but they give every student the ability to achieve the American Dream.

I have also been given the opportunity to excel by my teachers. One teacher especially has been Mrs. Ott. In fact, let's go back about 8 months, to Charter's first full day of school for the 2012-2013 year.

I walked into H block for Math III, with Mrs. Ott, confused and not sure if I was in the right place. I was in a room full of juniors, but listened as Mrs. Ott commenced her class and taught. When the bell rang, the juniors packed up and left, while I scrambled for my schedule, worried about what floor Chemistry was on. Then, Mrs. Ott came over and directed me there, and also told me to come to Activity Period if I needed any help. That first day, she gave me extra opportunities to really excel, not only in her class, but also helped me shape the work ethic I needed to excel at Charter.

Now, math has become one of my better classes of the day. Seeing that I could excel in a junior-level class, I was inspired to take Biology over the summer, to take AP Biology next year. Some students may forget about their teachers as they grow, but for me, my teachers have changed my life for the better, even as much as my parents do. And in the end, I will never forget an exceptional teacher like Mrs. Ott, who helped inspire my work ethic, and therefore, changing my life.