

## **Matt Noll**

Matt earned his Bachelor's of Art Degree in English Education from the University of Wisconsin Platteville in 1999. He joined the staff at Fort Atkinson in 1999 as an intern and due to his impressive teaching he was hired permanently the following year.

Matt believes that education is the foundation for life in our world. He believes the importance of content and works very hard to teach the curriculum for which he is responsible. However, he also believes that even more important than content is the socialization process and life lessons kids transcend in their educational experience. When Matt thinks back to his own K-12 schooling experience he remembers clearly the teachers, counselors, and other people who were caring, honest, respectful, and who modeled the attributes of a productive life.

Matt believes that the greatest challenge educators face, are student perceptions of the importance of education. Some kids believe that school is completely unimportant, only to realize later in life that they should have put more effort into their education. There are also some kids who seem to understand its importance but are motivated by questionable reasons thought to be sound when they strive to get A's because of the scholarship money available or because it ensures acceptance into the college of their choice, only to fall short in reaching their academic potential. Matt wants his students to know that he cares about their success and he is willing to go to great lengths to foster their success in his class and beyond.

In addition to his teaching duties, one of the more rewarding experiences Matt has had as an educator has been working with the Student Assistance Program. Students who participate in small groups in this program often improve their academic achievement because of the support they receive from others in the group. They find support from others and they understand they are not alone with some of their issues.

An alumnus writes--"In 2006 when Matt Noll was my mentor. He contributed more to my learning than anyone else I had encountered throughout my High School education. His unique approach to the classroom was what inspired a love of learning and helped me chose my own path after high school. I wanted to study English Literature in college, but was often told that it wasn't a field that would easily lead me to a lucrative career, so why put forth the time and energy? This did cause me to consider other major fields of study, but eventually, I gave in to what I

loved most—English. It was in Matt Noll's classroom that I discovered this passion. From discussing and writing about various texts, I found the courage to share my opinion. It was in these discussions that I gained confidence that I could contribute something unique and worthwhile."

Mr. Chad Harnisch, former colleague and now Principal at Rice Lake High School-- "Matt, in addition to being a great teacher and role model for students is also regarded by veteran teachers as a leader. He was often sought out for his advice. His voice was recognized as one of worth in the educational community."