

Christopher Reed

Chris Reed, a Middle School Health and Physical Education Teacher earned his Bachelor of Science Degree in Education from the University of Wisconsin-Platteville in 1993. He earned his Master's Degree in Professional Development from the University of Wisconsin LaCrosse in 2007.

Chris believes education is a process in his student's lives which he feels lucky enough to be a part of. Foremost, education is a student's development as a human being who interacts with others and is a part of our society. Health and fitness while not measured on standardized tests should be of paramount concern. Chris notes that "Without a respect for their own bodies, minds, and relationships, students will not be prepared for a mature life.

Chris shares that students who sometimes struggle in some of their academic courses may excel in a physical education setting. Good health and fitness have no boundaries. Opportunities to inspire a love of learning in my health and physical education students frequently occur! Chris uses daily writing prompts from readings in health classes and notes that in doing this students seem to relate best to things which are relevant to their own lives."

When asked what innovative projects/programs Chris states the District implemented a program within the curriculum called "Fitness Friday." Students recently did the mile run as a fitness test and in one of his 8th grade class periods. Fifty six of the 94 students completed the mile in less than eight minutes! Additionally, he stated that bicycling units, swimming units, strength and conditioning units, and some large

scale fitness equipment purchased with both district and grant funds, have resulted in dramatic improvements on the students overall attitudes towards fitness.

When asked to describe his commitment to the community Chris replies that serving as a Moderator for his Church where he was in charge of council meetings, soliciting members to fill various board positions, evaluating Church staff and other leadership tasks within the Church organization has been rewarding. Holding this position helped him not only learn about his Church, but also about himself and his faith.

Chris has also been a valuable community volunteer in assisting with the annual kids' triathlon, youth cross country and mile run events, the annual half marathon, and swim club activities. Chris states, "These volunteer opportunities have allowed me to give back to a community that has been a wonderful place to live."

Chris states in terms of his professional development, he would like to incorporate projects that extend his classroom into the community. He feels health education is the perfect link between school and community per topics of nutrition, fitness, crisis management, conflict resolution, wellness, and other societal interests.

When asked what the positive aspects he sees in education, Chris replied, my district has worked earnestly toward establishing assessments that not only help us close the achievement gap, but help us come to conclusions about whether or not our students have learned the necessary skills. No longer are test results and rankings our most valuable or relied upon form of assessment. Differentiation and understanding that what is good for one student is not always good for all students has become an important part of our classrooms in Fort Atkinson.

From Rev. Chris Buckingham-Taylor, “I have been impressed with Mr. Reed’s ability to juggle many roles. He always gives everything he has to each commitment.”

Kristin Wallace a parent states, “It I were to sum up Chris Reed’s mission statement as an educator – I would say he is about “making a difference in the lives of his students, one student at a time.” He does not adhere to a “one size fits all.”

From Charles Westby, teaching and coaching colleague, “Mr. Reed loves teaching. His lessons incorporate a learning cycle approach, in which he asks the question: “How can they learn it if they can’t experience it?”

With pleasure, the School District of Fort Atkinson submits the nomination of Chris Reed for the Kohl Fellowship Award.