

Jerry King has been a mainstay at Wahlquist Junior High for over 40 years. He has had an immense impact not only on our students at Wahlquist Junior High but our entire community. The relationships that he has created with his students reach back three generations. I have had the privilege of seeing Jerry work with my own kids. They would come home telling everything that went on in his class every day. They were excited to try new things. Mr. King gave them that opportunity.

Jerry is so passionate about his craft. You can't sit in his classroom without feeling that every project he demonstrates is the coolest thing you will ever see. After forty years of teaching, many find themselves content with existing projects. Not Jerry. Even though new technology does not come naturally to him, he sees the benefit to our students. He has learned how to do advanced C++ coding to help his robotics students learn how to program the new VEX Robotics. He learned how to use the Laser Engraver on multiple materials so he could teach the students. He is one of 2 teachers that has learned how to use CNC Mills to include them in his manufacturing curriculum.

Jerry's most admirable quality is his ability to create relationships with students that struggle in most other classes. He is able to see students as projects and take them from scrappy materials to finished works of art. He loves to see "that" student have success. At parent teacher conference, it is common to see parents (and sometimes grandparents) that come back and comment about the times they had while they were students in his class.

John Donley, CTE Coordinator at Weber Innovation Center, commented, "When we get new teachers in the district, I always try to get them to observe Jerry for at least one day their first year so they can see how they need to be. Jerry truly is a model teacher! He would do anything for the students and for his colleagues!"

Chad Marriott, CTE Coordinator at Fremont High, added, "From being my teacher at Wahlquist to my mentor during my early teaching experience to my friend. Jerry is always exciting, full of energy, and doing something enjoyable and engaging. I have and always will look up to Jerry as a "go to," "how to be" kind of teacher."

Charlie Nielson, CTE Coordinator at Bonneville High, stated, "I have known Jerry for all of my teaching career in the district. He is a wonderful teacher that students have come to enjoy. As I moved to the Jr High school from the High school, it was Gerry that I went to for lesson plans and the like. He was so very helpful at the time. I look back and must say a big thank you Jerry!"

I am so grateful for the opportunity that I have had to work with Jerry. I think it would be very fitting to acknowledge his influence with the "I Love Teaching Award".