

Why I Teach:

Wayne Reichart

Confucius once said that if you choose a job you love, you will never have to work a day in your life. After teaching at Benchmark School for 40 years, this adage could not ring more true for Wayne Reichart. As Physical Education Teacher, Benchmark Summer Camp Recreation Director, Coach, and Buildings & Grounds Manager, it is clear that he has made a lifelong commitment to Benchmark School and its mission.

Wayne commented that he has stayed at Benchmark for a number of reasons. “My job gives me the opportunity to watch a child develop through the years and see the impact Benchmark has on him or her,” he said. “I also love the staff and their commitment to each child.” In addition, Wayne said the diversity of his job keeps it interesting. “I go from teaching 6-year-olds one minute to coaching middle school sports the next. I also really enjoy the creativity I can bring to my work, such as creating the confidence course to give students a change of pace from our regular Phys. Ed. program. I’m fortunate that I am able to teach, coach, and mentor, and in addition, as Buildings and Grounds Manager, encounter other challenging but fulfilling opportunities.”

As a teacher, he said he most enjoys the interactions with the students and staff. As a coach, he most enjoys “watching what the team has learned and what we’ve practiced become reality in a game situation.” And as recreation director of Benchmark’s Summer Camp, Wayne said he most enjoys getting to “work with a staff of dedicated, talented young people,” as well as seeing the children who attend “enjoy the magic that is Benchmark Summer Camp.”



Tell us about yourself, Wayne!

Where did you go to school? I went to three different high schools: Olney High, Lower Moreland and George School, graduating from George School. I decided that after three high schools, one college would be enough, and I graduated from West Chester State College with a Health and Physical Education degree.

What is your favorite memory from your school years? I was lucky enough to be part of league championship teams three years in a row at three different schools (two in high school and one in college).

What is your favorite book? I have two: *The Water is Wide* by Pat Conroy, and *The Notebook* by Nicholas Sparks. *The Water is Wide* inspires me as a teacher, and *The Notebook* reminds me so much of my parents and their romance and life together.

What is your favorite inspirational quote? “To give anything

less than your best is to sacrifice the gift.” –Steve Prefontaine

What is your favorite sport to play? To teach/coach? To play: basketball and golf; to coach: soccer and basketball.

What are your hobbies outside of Benchmark? Running, playing golf and basketball, and gardening.

What is an interesting fact about you? Everyone knows me as a Phys. Ed. teacher who loves to play sports, but I am truly at my happiest when I’m in my garden.

Tell us about your family. I am married to Linda for 21 years and have two young adult children, Lauren and Brendan. Linda is a Database Administrator working at Wawa, Lauren attends my alma mater, West Chester University, and is studying Speech Pathology, and Brendan attends Temple University and is studying Marketing and Management Information Systems (MIS).