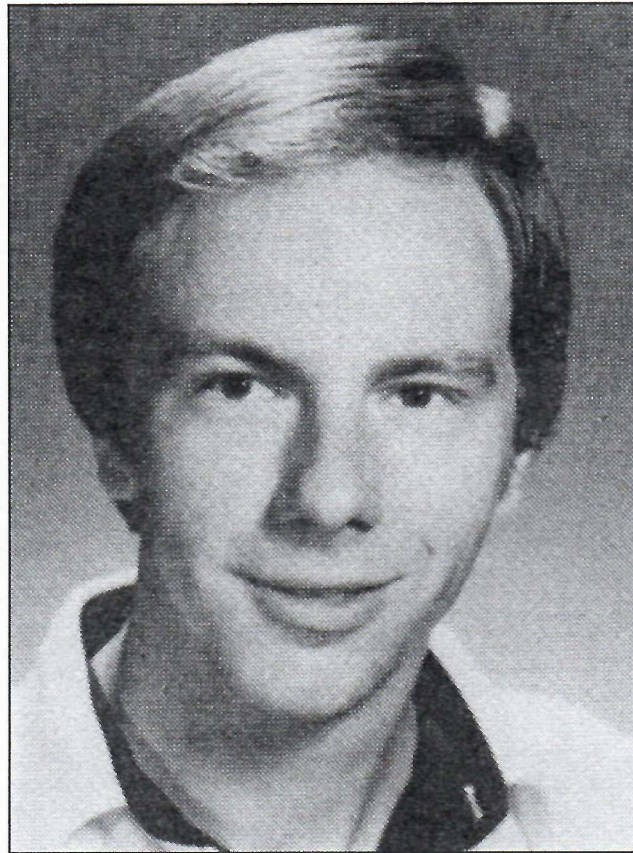


# *Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame*



**James J. Kanach**  
**Most Games Coached At WHRHS,**  
**Esteemed Teacher**

James J. Kanach was an esteemed teacher of English at Watchung Hills Regional High School from 1980 to 2014. He was named International Reading Teacher of the Year in 1986 as well as Watchung Hills Teacher of the Year in 2006. He also was named Princeton University Distinguished Educator Finalist in 2014.

Early on, Jim recognized the importance of technology as an essential tool for educators. He became a Mentor Teacher and Teacher Facilitator for the English Department webpage, and in 2011, he was the Techspo Speaker at the NJASA (New Jersey Association of School Administrators) conference, speaking on the topic, "Teaching with the iPad."

In 1987, he taught with the Special Service Department's "Project Re-Entry," and in 1989, he taught "reluctant learners" for The Learning Community.

Jim was also a highly decorated, record-setting coach. He coached in 1,365 contests in multiple sports, for both boys and girls teams, and at all levels. His 1,365 contests is the most games coached by one coach in WHRHS history. During his tenure as a coach, Jim coached boys' and girls' soccer, girls' tennis, girls' basketball, softball, coed bowling, and coed golf. His WHRHS coaching career spanned 84 athletic seasons, and saw 715 wins at all levels, including 403 wins at the varsity level, and 312 wins at junior varsity and freshmen levels.

In 1988, he was named Coach of the Year in both a boys' varsity sport, soccer, and in a girls' varsity sport, softball, the first coach in WHRHS history to achieve that feat.

Jim was named Coach of the Year six times, and won six championships: in 1989 and 1995 in Central Jersey Group 3 softball, and in 2006, 2008, 2009 and 2010 in bowling. In addition to teaching and coaching at WHRHS, in 1996 James Kanach was the co-coordinator with the baseball team to build dugouts and backstops for both the baseball and softball teams. And in the 1980's he served as a recreational referee at the middle schools and coached basketball for four years at Valley View Middle School in Watchung.