



Dan Weidman Class of 2015

Inspired by Monsieur (Jack) Hughes, Dan knew from the time he was a freshman that he wanted to be a French teacher.

He graduated from Oroville High School (OHS) in 1969, where he received the Bank of America Foreign Language Award and Outstanding Teenager Award. He was senior class president, a member of the National Honor Society, student council, drama club, cross country, track and tennis teams.

At Butte College (AA degree), he was the Foreign Language Department tutor. While attending California State University, Chico (CSUC), (BA degree & California Teaching Credential), he spent his senior year in Aix-en-Provence, France on the Junior Year Abroad program. He studied for his Master's degree in French at University of California at Davis (UCD) and California State University, San Francisco.

Dan taught French at CSUC from 1974-76. While there he created The International Festival (now in its 41st year) and co-founded The Language Houses (La Maison Française, La Casa Italiana, Das Deutsche Haus, and La Casa Hispanica). He served as Director of La Maison Française where he created a French café and as faculty advisor to CSUC Junior Year Abroad applicants.

Dan returned to the states to resume his true passion of teaching French. He spent the next 3 decades teaching French to high school, middle school, and elementary school students in both public and private schools in the San Francisco Bay Area. He was awarded a Fulbright Teacher Exchange appointment to Sion, Switzerland for the 1989-90 school year. For a change of pace, he created from scratch and taught a University of California-approved 4 year high school Italian program from 2005-2009. To enhance the classroom experience, Dan has always organized and offered a variety of local field trips and study-tour abroad trips for his students. Since 1974, he has led 36 study-tour programs to France, England, Switzerland, Holland, Belgium, and Italy since 1974.

A lifelong educator and devoted Francophile, Dan taught French for 4 decades from university to elementary school levels. He has traveled, worked, taught, and lived extensively in France, Switzerland, Italy and the United States. Inspired by his own OHS experiences, he has shared his passion for the French language and culture with thousands of students. He is dedicated to seeing that his students succeed and have confidence in their communication and cross-cultural comprehension skills.

Building on the solid foundation and preparation that Dan received from Monsieur Hughes at OHS, Dan authored The French Verb Chart, a unique and highly successful learning tool that helps students master the art of conjugating the French verb –all 14 tenses plus the imperative! Proven over and over again in the classroom with students of all ages, The French Verb Chart is a structural, methodical, learning-system that eliminates the mystery, fear and frustration from the most complex aspect of learning French – verb conjugation. His system has proven to give students a sense of ownership and accomplishment. Dan has extended the formula to The Italian Verb Chart and The Spanish Verb Chart. French Verb Chart Workbooks 1 and 2 are dedicated to: “The “The memory of John S. Hughes, beloved teacher and friend to thousands of students during his 40 years of service at Oroville High School, Oroville, CA.”

In a letter of support from a former student, Hillary Schwartz writes, "When I consider the personal qualities that your committee might look for in selecting a candidate, the words "dedication", "integrity", and "passion", come to mind. Mr. Weidman displayed these qualities each day in the classroom and he provided the praise and encouragement that allowed his students to feel that they could successfully master a foreign language."

Quotes from Dan: "This simple up-down, simple tense-compound tense box system of verb conjugation employed by John "Jack" S. Hughes, my Oroville High School French teacher, gave me, a simple kid from Oroville, the comprehensive and rock-solid foundation to become a French major in college and a French instructor in life."

"Yes, one teacher can make a difference and have a lifelong impact on a student's life. For me, that teacher was John "Jack" S. Hughes of Oroville High School."

Dan and his wife Cynthia, make their home in Rancho Mirage, CA.