

Big time: Shields' positive attitude inspires, motivates

Faith Word

Staff Reporter

Kids who do not even know business teacher and football coach Charles Shields will be greeted with a "How yooou doo-in?" followed by a warm, positive smile. In his classroom, Shields is teaching more than just computer techniques. He bases his lesson plan on getting the students involved academically and socially.

During the week, he engages students in his classes with activities within the classroom like cheers, chants and brain stimulators to get students eager to learn.

Shields has a passion for teaching valuable lessons that will carry students for life.

"What fuels me every day is the notion that I truly believe I was put here on this Earth to impact the lives of others. Teaching and coaching gives me the best avenue to do this," Shields said.

Shields encourages students to come to school and to stay strong academically. When students are absent from his classroom, he puts their names in the "Wishing Well" — a poster with a heart on it in the classroom that encourages the rest of the

class to think about the absent students and encourage them to come back to class.

When the absent students return, Shields leads the class in a chant based on how the class as a whole thought about the absent student while she was gone.

"We are living in a time where individuals are very self-centered. The "Wishing Well" is done to try to show empathy and show students that the world doesn't revolve around just them. I'm trying to teach students to truly care about what's happening in the

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life of their classroom family," Shields said.

Shields also focuses on building a bond within the classroom.

"For me, I use the chants as a way to build a classroom family. I feel if we strip away the individuals'

individuality, we are able to create an environment where students truly care for each other. These chants are used as a way to unite and connect every day," Shields said.



Photo by Justin Holliday

Coach Charles Shields smiles with his first period class because "It's a great day to be a Raider."

At the beginning of each class, Shields and the rest of the class participate in brain-stimulating activities like The Pretzel, Dah Que Ona, Georgie Porgie, and Twinkle Twinkle. These exercises are stem-based research that address these questions: What can I learn from this? Am I loved? Am I safe? He strongly believes the activities are effective.

"They work! I see the progress within the students in my class. It's big time!" Shields said.

Every 30 minutes, Shields' classes take a break from their work. He believes this leads to stronger academics.

"If we adults actually watched ourselves during faculty meetings, we could realize that it is very difficult to sit still and pay attention for 90 minutes straight. These exercises allow us to get up and take our minds off of

the stress school can lead to," Shields said.

The lessons and cheers Shields leads teach students values to use throughout life: to always think of others, to encourage others and to build a stronger bond with classmates.

Students appreciate Shields' high energy and positive attitude.

"He is very inspirational and uplifting. If you're having a bad day, he knows how to turn your frown upside down," senior Alex Payne said.

Shields' everyday focus on building a positive energy around school really means a lot to the student body.

"He is the reason I look forward to school, his boost of energy and enthusiasm helps me get through the day," senior Jake Wells said.

Shields' students appreciate his powerful character within

the classroom as well.

"He is a very charismatic individual with an outgoing, uplifting attitude. His character and energy always are adding factors that contribute to a great day," senior Braden Blackwell said.

Not only do students recognize and appreciate his energy, but so does the faculty.

"Coach Shields' smile is contagious! He is lively person, always full of energy, and he truly cares about his students," football coach Zachary Norman said.

"He does a great job connecting with students on a personal level. He sits down and finds out who they are as a person," football coach Anthony Frate said.

Shields works day in and day out to put forth the best uplifting attitude and positive smile.

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