

ALUMNI OF THE MONTH

Name: Dr. Kevin M. Higley

Year of Graduation: 1993

What have you done since graduating from Port Allegany High School?

Since graduating from Port Allegany High School in 1993, I haven't strayed very far away from education. I earned my Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with a double major in English and Spanish and a double minor in theatre and psychology in 1997 from Slippery Rock University of Pennsylvania. I completed my student teaching in Las Vegas, Nevada, where I am currently in my 25th year in this school district.



I earned my first Master's degree in Educational Technology in 2002 from Lesley University and my second in Educational Leadership in 2008 from Walden University. I earned my Board Certified Behavior Analyst (BCBA) certification in 2010 from The University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). I also earned my doctorate in Curriculum & Instruction in 2020 from UNLV with an emphasis in disproportionality in student discipline.

As a teacher, I taught English, Spanish, reading, student leadership, broadcast journalism, and video production. I opened 2 brand-new high schools, worked as the coordinator for foreign-hired teachers, and was a district trainer for Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS) for several years. I am currently an assistant principal in North Las Vegas, Nevada, having recently completed both a local principal's internship and a national certification in school leadership from the National Center on Education and the Economy (NCEE).

As I alluded to, the majority of my time spent beyond the walls of PAHS have been in education. However, in addition to those accomplishments, I have been married to an equally-accomplished man for almost 19 years. We are both very career-minded, but do

enjoy traveling the world, when there isn't a world-wide pandemic. We currently live in Centennial Hills, a suburb of Las Vegas, NV, and enjoy hiking, reading, and eating. It seems crazy to say, but we can see the light towards retirement and are looking forward to enjoying those years away from the hustle and bustle of the daily grind.

Where do you currently live?

Las Vegas, Nevada, USA

Who was your favorite teacher in high school? Why were they your favorite?

As a life-long educator, I think it would do a disservice to choose just one; many teachers helped shape who I became and their influence should be noted.

I really want to honor Mr. Kirchner, Mr. Myers, and Mrs. Kelley for helping me gain self-confidence and providing an outlet for me to survive those high school years. Each of them truly cared about students and their influence on my path was greatly impacted by their kind hearts. I hope they know that they saved me.

What is your fondest memory of Port Allegany High School?

When I look back on my high school experience, there are more terrible memories than great. To be honest, they weren't the best years. The bullying was intense. But, being in the theatre and being able to escape the problems of my reality at that time are always something that I will treasure and look back fondly on. I am grateful to have had that outlet.

And, it's true what they say, it does get better.