



Dalvin Yager – Derby, KS

Mr. Yager’s philosophy for teaching was “Go Have fun.” He believes that if “whether it was speaking, debating, or performing, if we were doing it right, it would be fun”. As a teacher, he saw his role to help his students be prepared for the challenges and opportunities they would face it would be from skills they would have in public speaking as key to success in their future.

His educational background includes a Bachelor of Arts in Speech and Drama from Southwestern College, Winfield, KS in 1981, and a Master of Arts in Teaching from Emporia State University, Emporia, KS in 1993.

Once he was awarded his degree, he began his teaching experience in Ulysses, KS. From 1981-1985 he taught English 9, Speech, Debate, Forensics, and Creative Writing at the High School. He then traveled East to Derby High School, in Derby, KS and from 1985-2014 he instructed English 9-11, Speech, Debate, Forensics, Acting 1 and 2, and Theater Appreciation. He obtained 33 years in his career and retired in 2014.

He was given numerous awards, honors and recognitions through the years. He held the position of District Chair of the West Kansas National Forensics League (NFL – now known as NSDA- National Speech and Debate Association). He served as National Forensics League National Tournament Official in Extemporaneous Speaking for 19 years, Received the DHS Golden Apple and served as Kansas 6A state Debate tabulation official for several years.

A list of Coaching recognitions follows: Qualified 66 students to the national tournament over 29 years. Coached the 8th best debate speaker in the nation. Qualified students in all 11 main events at nationals. 3 state champions in Original Oratory, Humorous Interpretation, and Duet Acting. 2002 2nd place debate. 2005 3rd place state debate. 9 regional championships or runners up in 6A debate. 2000 and 2006 hosted the Kansas State Debate Tournament. 2007 Hosted the NFL national tournament.

Outside of his school involvement he has served on the staff/parish committee for three years at his Church, Woodlawn United Methodist Church. He was co-chair of the DHS reading committee.

Zachary Brown, a former student states, “the most valuable lessons I learned from Mr. Yager’s classes go far beyond terminology or carefully rehearsed forensics speeches. The ability to critically think, examine evidence, and express an informed opinion based on available evidence are the foundational skills that I gained. These skills are essential to civic engagement in our communities. He also stressed the importance of giving back to the community.

This instilled positive notion of service, volunteerism, and the importance of building a sustainable community of supporters to ensure that future generations have the same opportunities.” These are some of the reasons we welcome Mr. Yager to the Kansas Teachers’ Hall of Fame and the class of 2021.