

AMY (Lueken) HAWKINS

Working Her Way to the Top: The Biography of a Forest Park Student-turned-teacher

Graduate: Class of 1998 Occupation: Math Teacher

When trying to decide on a career, Amy Hawkins, without difficulty, chose teaching. As a student she had always admired her teachers; this admiration, therefore, contributed to her urge to later become one. She loves her career and feels quite fortunate to teach at the same school she graduated from just a few years ago.

As a member of the Forest Park Class of 1998, Amy says she gained much college preparation from her senior year English and government/economics classes. Having earned the title of class president (three out of the four years she attended high school) and homecoming queen, as well as getting involved in National Honor Society, student council, and Beta Club, Amy built valuable confidence throughout high school. Her greatest influence came from her parents, Tom and Connie; however, two of Amy's teachers, Tara Rasche and Diane Hoppenjans, also offered her a large amount of inspiration. Amy wanted to stay somewhat close to home while attending college, which led her to choose the University of Southern Indiana. Amy finalized her decision to become a teacher while cadet teaching in high school, although she gives much credit to many of the previous teachers she admired. From high school to college, Amy's toughest transition became managing her excess time, along with her newfound freedom. She soon learned that life, as well as the "real world", are not always fair, nor simple for that matter. Hardworking and ambitious, Amy graduated from college cum laude.

Luckily, Amy found a job immediately after graduating from USI. After teaching at both Cannelton and Tell City schools, Amy finally received the job she had always dreamed of-teaching at Forest Park, where she has now been for the past five years. Amy feels that as a math teacher, she must try to make her class more meaningful to her students. "As a teacher, I strive daily to provide the best educational opportunities possible for my students," she says, "I feel that as a teacher, my greatest responsibility is to help prepare them for their futures." Remembering that her career involves educating a broad range of people remains a key aspect that Amy must consider daily. Amy takes great pride in doing what she does; she feels fulfillment from her work because she has the ability to make a difference in the lives of her students. Amy gives this advice to current Forest Park students: "Be thankful for the school environment and teachers that you have. . . the staff at Forest Park is caring, hardworking, and they push you to be the best that you can be. Appreciate what you have and get involved as much as you can-it will be over before you know it."

Spending her free time with family and friends, camping, or scrapbooking is what Amy now enjoys doing. She currently lives and plans to stay in Dubois County. After marrying her “high school sweetheart”, Nathan Hawkins, in 2003, they became the proud parents of a two-year-old daughter and hope to have more kids in the future, all of whom will attend Forest Park High School.