

NICK WEYER

Adding, Subtracting-and Motivating: Nick Weyer Balances Life and Mathematics

Graduate: Class of 2003 Occupation: Mathematics Teacher By Lori Weyer, Spring 2010

Math-the one subject in school almost every student seems to despise. Nick Weyer, however, has found it compelling since his early years of high school. A mathematics teacher at Tell City High School, Nick spends his days teaching high school students how to find an unknown variable or graph a circle. Did he ever question his career choice? "I was just myself, pursuing what I wanted," claims Nick. Because he favors working with people and numbers, he decided to become a teacher.

In 2003, Nick graduated from Forest Park High School. While at Forest Park, Nick enjoyed the simple parts of high school: walking through the hallways, eating at lunch, and spending time with his friends. He participated in tennis, and he spent his summers and a number of his evenings working at Weyer Electric. Although he regrets not taking nutrition or agriculture classes, Nick believes that he left Forest Park prepared to enter college and start a career.

Excited and nervous, Nick began his first year of college at the University of Evansville in 2003. After he visited the University of Evansville during high school, he knew his college search was over because "it just fit." Nick was the vice-president of the Indiana Student Education Association in college, and he played intramural soccer and volleyball. Attending college for four years and graduating summa cum laude, Nick gained independence and leadership because he did not rely on his parents to help him succeed. According to Nick, "It is up to you to do everything. A professor will help you, but if you do not make the effort, he may not reach out to you."

Fortunately, Nick had two job interviews arranged right after he graduated from the University of Evansville in 2007. The interviewing process came with stress, but he did receive an offer at Tell City High School to teach mathematics. Nick believes that succeeding in an interview-one of the most strenuous aspects of searching for a job-requires preparation. "Be confident. Be prepared. Dress well. Be on time," advises Nick.

Nick began teaching at Tell City High School approximately two years ago. He believes that watching a student's personality grow ranks as the finest part of teaching; therefore, he loves to see a student smile and succeed. Also, he believes he "touches tomorrow today." A superlative day in the life of Nick Weyer would consist of no

absences, no interruptions, and participation from everyone in the classroom. Although Nick dreams of perfect days in the classroom, various days show the funny and interesting sides of students. For example, students put Nick's stapler in gelatin.

Although Nick loves his job, some days he must help students deal with harsh challenges. Nick had to counsel and motivate a student through the death of a loved one, and he confronted the issue with courage and wisdom. To help make a difference in a student's life, Nick has learned to be compassionate and accepting all the time. Even though his job challenges him on a daily basis, he would not change one part of it because he has the power to impact at least one student's life. He sees potential in every student.

Nick's family has helped him achieve several of his dreams, and he looks to them for support and encouragement to pursue his other dreams. In the future, Nick would like to earn his master's degree and become a principal. Also, he wishes to marry, start a family, build a house, travel, and manage his own restaurant. Nick has lived in Dubois County his whole life, and he never wants to move away because of the wonderful experiences he had when he was younger.

Nick earns a living by making a career out of his passion, and he hopes that others will follow his thinking. He could not imagine his life without teaching. Life deprived of a passion becomes stagnant. Nick declares, "Do what makes you come alive because that is what the world needs."