

SAU#19



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For Immediate Release

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Brian Balke, Superintendent of Schools

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The Goffstown School District is pleased to share that Mr. Andrew Pyszka has been named as the 2020 NH Daughters of the American Revolution Outstanding Teacher of American History. Mr. Pyszka has been a member of the teaching team within the Goffstown School District since 1994. He taught for 22 years at Mountain View Middle School before transitioning to Goffstown High School in the fall of 2016. At GHS, Mr. Pyszka has taught both Civics and US History classes. In the classroom, his passion and enthusiasm are contagious, his content knowledge is extensive, and students are always attuned to the learning activity at hand.

In addition to demonstrating a love and deep knowledge of history, he has a passion and gift for sharing it and encouraging civic engagement in his students. History in Mr. Pyszka's classroom is not about names, dates, and events. It is about the study of who we are – an exploration of self, family, and community on both a local and global scale.

With his tenth grade Civics students, Mr. Pyszka has integrated a Civic Engagement project through which students are encouraged to explore the essential questions of: What does it mean to be civically engaged? What is our civic responsibility to community? What is the importance of civic engagement within the United States of America? in either academic or field research. Through this work, Mr. Pyszka seeks to bring the Founding Fathers and the Constitution to life as he meaningfully connects his students and their modern life to the ideals on which this country was founded.

Additionally, Mr. Pyszka models all that he seeks to impart on his students. He can always be found on the sidelines of an athletic contest, in the audience of a school theater production, helping serve dinner at the annual Hall of Fame dinner, working as a class advisor, or sitting in the cafeteria at lunch talking with students. His civic engagement begins in the halls of GHS but extends, as well, into his work within the community.

Outside of the classroom, Mr. Pyszka spent a year as the Assistant Director of Civic Education at the New Hampshire Institute of Politics at St. Anselm College. The focus of his work during this year was on student leadership

development, management of co-curricular student activities with a civic engagement focus, and assisting in a civic engagement course centered on the Public Achievement model. Public Achievement is a youth citizenship education model created by the Center for Democracy and Citizenship at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs.

Mr. Pyszka has been an active member of the Goffstown Historical Society and a member of the Board of Directors since 2010 holding the office of Vice President since 2017. The purpose of this society is to promote interest and appreciation in the history, heritage, and development of the Town of Goffstown, realizing that the history of our community is basic to our democratic way of life, giving a better understanding of our state and nation, and promoting a better appreciation of our American heritage.

Through a balance of high expectations and the intentional building of relationships, Mr. Pyszka is able to tease out the best from within all his students. He is exceptional at what he does and the Goffstown School District is pleased to share this well-deserved recognition of excellence.