

## **Stephen Lehman**

### **Star Teacher 2016**

People say that you never truly know what you have until it's gone. In my experience, however, you often know what you have, but fail to show your appreciation until it's too late. Last year, amid rumors of Mr. Lehman's mid-year departure, South Point students, myself included, realized that it was about to be "too late."

Luckily, we got a second chance. Shortly after a bank tried to lure him away, conversations with "hockey," "Michigan," and "pop" resurfaced at the end of the history hall. Mr. Lehman was back, and students could not have been happier.

The buzz surrounding Mr. Lehman's return was not only about interesting classes, but also respect for his classroom strengths. It is well-known that Mr. Lehman's World and European History classes are challenging; anything less than students' best efforts will bring unsatisfactory grades.

However, the dedication required of his students is exceeded by the dedication of Mr. Lehman himself. He is prepared for every class. He makes lessons fun with games and pop culture references. Most importantly, he turns history into a subject that students find useful, no matter what field they will pursue.

I was fortunate to take Mr. Lehman's World History course freshman year. That semester taught me not only history, but also writing skills, study habits, and persistence: the foundation for the rest of high school.

Mr. Lehman, all I can say is thank you. Thank you for the Survivor Games, the Detroit jokes, and the many rounds of Bluff. Thank you for 10,000 years of lectures and more DBQs than I ever wanted. Thank you for the hellos in the hallway, even after I completed all your classes. But most of all, thank you for giving me the confidence to succeed. You truly define what a Star Teacher should be.

**Grace Russell**  
**South Point High School**  
**Star Student 2016**



**Gaston County Schools**