

David Vixie

Paradise Adventist Academy, Paradise, CA

Middle School Humanities

8th Grade



2005 Honorees



“Traditional education emphasizes the lesser function of the brain, memory, to program students with predictable knowledge, while neglecting its major function, thinking. A need exists for teachers who do more than march kids through textbooks, who educate students for inquiry and

invention, and reach those often left behind with the joy of learning. I teach through a literary-rich, integrated curriculum which communicates the importance of real reading and writing. It is an environment unique to the educational experience of children where students interact with emotional commitment, realize their value, feel respected, and develop their potential. They collaborate, solve problems, discover democratic values and self governance and apply skills in real situations where their decisions affect the outcome.”

“Students are frequently removed from the security of the classroom and led to the woods, desert or sea to discover new things about themselves. Their desks are taken away that they may have the freedom to think and to grow. They have traveled throughout the ages from medieval times to the future, to appreciate from whence we have come and where we are going. They have crossed simulated oceans, continents and space, that they may expand their horizons. They have engaged in national and international conflict, settlement, agriculture, commerce, government, and other sundry occupations, that they may learn about life.”

– David Vixie

“The desks in Mr. Vixie’s classroom are seldom in the ‘standard’ classroom configuration. One day I walked into the classroom and all the desks had been moved to the side of the classroom and the room was filled with empty appliance boxes. The class was studying the depression in American history and this was their ‘shanty town’. Each student had his/her own box and this was their ‘living space’ the week or so they were studying the topic. He also has done simulations for ‘immigrating’ into eighth grade, home steading, World War I and II (with maps that take up the whole floor) and there are even simulations for Bible class. While simulations are usually based on a history topic, Mr. Vixie brings in as many other disciplines as possible.”

– Tim Bair, principal, Paradise Adventist Academy



Other Highlights:

Wells Fargo Teacher of the Year (2004)

Oregon California Trail Association Award (1997)

Crystal Apple Award (2004)

National Society Daughters of Colonial Wars, Inc. Patriotism, American History and American Heritage teaching award (2004)

Daughters of the American Revolution, Gold Nugget Chapter Excellency in American History Award (2003 and 2004)

Veteran’s of Foreign Wars of the United States CA State Teacher National Citizenship Education Teacher Award (1999)

Years Teaching: 28

Average Class Size: 25

Classes Taught Per Day: 7

School’s Percent of ESL Students: 1

School Type: Parochial, Medium-Small City

Type of Class: Self-contained