

2006 HONOREE

Douglas G. Martin

Fox Chapel Area High School, Pittsburgh, PA
Applied Fields Education • 9th-12th Grade Media Arts



Years Teaching: 16

Average Class Size: 14

Classes Taught Per Day: 2-3

School's % of ESL Students: <1%

School Type: Public, Suburban

Type of Class: Elective course

“When new students enter my classroom, I see their eyes enlarge and watch as smiles spread across their faces. My classroom is not the sort of high school environment to which most students are accustomed. I teach television production and my classroom is the television studio. This unique classroom affords me the opportunity to put my educational philosophy into practice. I strongly believe that for true learning to occur, subject matter must become real to students. By producing daily television programming, my students reinforce textbook concepts as they apply what they learn to real-world situations. They learn that learning is important in life and that the experiences and knowledge they bring to their work shapes the end result. My own prior work experience in professional broadcast television lends credibility to my philosophy, for students know that I have real-world work experience in the subject that I teach. When I began teaching, I decided to teach my students how to perform the production roles I had learned and observed during my career in television, and I teach my students from my professional experience. Visitors to my classes often comment on how impressed they are to see high school students managing and operating a television production facility and producing high-quality programming.”



“I believe students can master complex material and skills when they are motivated and challenged. My classes are based on that belief, and the daily programming my students produce provides evidence to support that belief. Students operate and manage a very complex studio operation daily and demonstrate mastery of very complex technology and concepts. Each day they come to class with the desire to produce a perfect program and to perform their roles flawlessly. I hold my students to very high standards and have high expectations of them.”

“What I witnessed Doug’s students learning was more than the sum of the obvious parts. They learned how to compartmentalize in order to work as a cohesive and productive unit. I saw firsthand how my son learned to manage people towards a common goal in a work environment and more impressively, how he took those skills out of school and into the workplace and used them. Through high school and college, my son has proven to be a stellar employee who has forged close and trusted relationships with his employers – for this, I give full credit to Doug Martin.”

– Donald G. Friedman,
parent of former student

OTHER HIGHLIGHTS:

Commendation for ten years of service on the board of directors - Television and Video Teachers Consortium (2002) • All Star Educator - University of Pittsburgh School of Education (1995) • Award for Excellence in Broadcast Journalism Education CNN Newsource Award (1993) • The 'I Dare You' Award for Leadership (1976) • Co-founder of the Western Pennsylvania Television and Video Teachers Consortium (TVT)