

Black Horse Pike Regional School District Spotlight on Alumni Spotlight - HIGHLAND FEBRUARY 2021



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“The Black Horse Pike Regional School District is proud to share the great news that alumni Shane McNichol, co 2003, has been named Educator of the Year at Delsea Middle School. Congrats Shane!”

~Dr. Brian Repici, Superintendent of Schools

SHANE MCNICHOL, CO 2003

1. AA: Upon graduation, what post-secondary path did you take and why?

SHANE: *I attended Rutgers University, Camden campus to study Psychology so that I could prepare for my goal of earning a master's degree in School Counseling and to continue playing baseball at a competitive level.*

2. Looking back, would you have done anything differently and why?

SHANE: I would consider taking my prerequisite classes at a county college to save money.

3. AA: Describe your career/profession today?

SHANE: I am a school counselor at Delsea Middle School and I get to work with students who need my help every day. I pride myself on addressing the social and emotional needs of my students to allow them to think clearly in class and learn their academics.

4. AA: What impact did your BHP high school have on your career path/profession?

SHANE: When I think back at my time at Highland, I easily recall the special people that educated me and inspired me during my toughest moments. I realized the power of that support and this motivated me to pursue school counseling as a profession.

5. AA: Were there specific teachers, coaches, counselors, administrators, secretaries or other professionals that had a major impact on you while in school, and if so, who were those professionals and describe how they helped you along your HS journey.

*SHANE: The Highland staff who left a lifelong impression on me are plentiful but I would like to name a few specific people; **Coach DJ Gore, Coach Repici, Mrs. Judy Gore, Ms. Diz, Mr. Palatucci, Mr. Nau, Mrs. Marshall**, and so many others! All very special people that helped me outside of the classroom in ways that I will never forget!*

6. AA: Which school clubs, sports, activities, etc., if any, did you participate in when you attended your BHP high school? If so, were there any moments or experiences that you can recall that helped you become the person you are today?

*SHANE: I was involved in baseball and Renaissance mostly. I enjoyed volunteering to decorate for dances or school events, going to football and basketball games (The girls team was dominant while I attended Highland, **Mr. McGettigan**...Hoop phi!) The sense of community made the school environment a special place, I will always remember that. In fact, I try to replicate that "feeling" in my school that I work at now.*

7. AA: Please share any other favorite memories of the Black Horse Pike Regional School District, your HS in particular, that would inspire today's youth?

SHANE: Although this is not a "favorite memory", I believe it is important and relevant. I was in Highland during the time of 9/11. I remember feeling very similar to how we feel today about the world and being safe. I could count on Highland to be a source of support, consistency, and a safe place that I could ask questions to help digest what I was seeing happening in the world. I hope that the youth in Highland today feel the same way.

8. What advice would you give to our current student body? What would you have done differently in high school if you could turn back time?

SHANE: Be nice to everyone! Everyone is dealing with some sort of problem or discomfort in their life and if you go out of your way to smile at someone, say good morning, sit with them at lunch, ask if they are OK, it could make them feel safe and welcomed even if they are not your closest friend. If I could turn back time, I would have been more of an advocate for my minoritized friends. I would have been more proactive in learning about their struggles and working together to make a change.

