

Black Horse Pike Regional School District Spotlight on Alumni (December 2019)



DJ Gore, Highland Regional HS, class of 1994

Nominator: Carey Speziali, Director of School Counseling, HHS

Supervisor of Registration, Enrollment and Summer Programs, Art Alessandroni, interviewed/discussed life after Highland Regional High School with DJ Gore. Here's what DJ had to say about his Tartan experience:

1. AA: If you attended a college/university, what school(s) did you attend and was your major?

alumni: DJ attended Chowan College, Camden County College, Wilmington University, majoring in Liberal Arts in undergrad and School Counseling in graduate school.

2. Describe your career/profession today?

alumni: Today, I am a School Counselor and head baseball coach at Highland Regional.

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

alumni: Highland allowed me to become the person I am today. I was blessed to be surrounded by so many wonderful people who took a genuine interest in me. Highland was where my entire family went to school. I was always proud to be part of that Highland tradition. Deep down, I always thought I would come back and coach/work at Highland. It was the best decision I made 19 years ago.

4. **AA: Was there a teacher, coach, counselor, administrator, secretary, etc. that had the biggest impact on you while in school, and if so, how?**

alumni: When I was in high school, there were so many positive role models. There are three that stand out for me.

***Ms. Boyle** was the 12th grade History teacher and she challenged me to be the best student I could be. My fascination with our history today is because of Ms. Boyle.*

***Mrs. Dunigan** taught me Geometry and to take life as it comes to you. She also taught me a valuable lesson to not sweat the small stuff; she was extremely positive.*

***Bill Collins** was a family friend who always looked out for me. While I never ran Cross Country/track for him, I wish I did. I will always consider him a mentor and someone I can still count on today. These three remarkable people have had a huge impact in my life.*

5. **AA: Which clubs, sports, activities, etc., if any, did you participate in while at HHS?**

alumni: Wrestling, Baseball, History Club

6. **AA: Do you have a favorite memory from high school you'd be willing to share?**

*alumni: Some of my best memories from high school are with sports. I was part of our State Championship Wrestling teams. We won 3 State Championships and 4 SJ Sectional Championships along with 4 Conference titles and 4 District 30 titles. We were fortunate to travel to Florida, Georgia, Maine, Pennsylvania during our 4 years. We got to watch 2 National Championship Football Games during our trips to Florida. To be able to be part of Highland Wrestling Tradition was something we all sacrificed for and are extremely proud of. The lessons we learned in the practice room have helped me become the person I am today. **Ralph Ross Sr., Ken Reilly, Matt Avery, Rob Milavsky and Mike Lamb** were the driving force and some of the most influential people in my high school experience.*

7. **AA: What advice would you give to our current student body?**

alumni: Take your grades seriously from day 1, get involved in a Sport / Club ... Learn to be comfortable being uncomfortable; it will allow you to grow as a Student /Athlete ~DJ Gore

