

## 2015 TOYs

### Bart Jones

Bart holds a bachelors degree from Iowa State University in Exercise & Sport Science and a Master's Degree from A.T. Still University in Human Movement. Since 2003 he has been a physical education teacher at the Rabiner Treatment Center, a Special Education Teacher Associate at the Saydel Community School District, and just completed his 10<sup>th</sup> year as a physical education teacher in the Van Meter School District. He has been a member of our association for 5 years where he has served as a convention presenter, journal article contributor, and elementary physical education section chair. Bart is also a member of SHAPE America, the Iowa State Education Association, and National Education Association.

Significant achievements during his time at Van Meter include being selected as a PE4life Adopt-A-School Challenge grant winner, implementing standards based grading in physical education, and being the catalyst for policy change which included offering physical education on a daily basis. Beyond his school duties, he has served his community as a youth soccer coach and youth t-ball coach.

A student in Bart's daily physical education class will experience a variety of developmentally appropriate non-traditional activities throughout the year that are delivered through small sided games and individual skill development activities where students have been informed of the learning targets for the day. As one parent stated, "He makes sure that his students know what activity they will be participating in and even more importantly, that they know WHY!"

Technology is essential to Bart's success as an educator as he uses it for instruction, feedback, assessment, and communication. A special education teacher at his school stated, "Communication is important to him and he uses any and all means available to ensure that his classroom extends beyond the school day." Bart is very generous with sharing not only his time but his ideas with others through various social media such as Voxer, Twitter, Facebook, YouTube, and Instagram.

One of his many strengths is his ability to create innovative learning experiences for the students that he teaches to get them excited about movement and exercise. An example of this is his creation of a Mario Kart course where he goes above and beyond to peak the kids' interest by dressing up in costume as Mario himself.

Here are few other excerpts from some of the letters of recommendation in support of Bart's nomination for this award.

"Bart works collaboratively with classroom teachers as well as other staff members throughout the building which allows him to effectively integrate many language arts and mathematic skills into his daily physical education lessons. Our students love him and look forward to his PE class each day. He has proven to be a tremendous asset to our school."

"Mr. Jones goes out of his way to make PE enjoyable for each child. ....bringing in yoga instructors from our community, having students graph fitness data, record their throwing motions using their iPads, and even competing in body system races."

"He has exceptional enthusiasm along with the knowledge, passion, and understanding of what motivates and helps students become successful as well as physically active."

In closing, one of his letters of recommendation stated, "He is by far one of the most influential and inspiring teachers that I have worked with." The Van Meter Elementary students are lucky to have a devoted and passionate teacher in Mr. Jones.

Please join me in congratulating our 2015 Elementary Teacher of the Year, Bart Jones.

### **Brett Delaney**

Brett holds a bachelors degree from Central College in Exercise Science Physical Education and a Master's Degree from the University of Northern Iowa in Physical Education. He has spent one year as a 6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup> PE & Health Instructor at Colfax Middle School, two years as a 6<sup>th</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> Health Instructor at Parkview Middle School in Ankeny, and six years as an 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup> PE & Health Instructor at Northview Middle School also in Ankeny. His coaching duties have included being a middle school football coach, 8<sup>th</sup> grade basketball coach, high school baseball coach, and is currently a high school softball coach. Brett is also the Wellness Coach at Northview MS where he encourages activity and healthy habits for the adults in the building through monthly wellness challenges.

He has been a member of our association for 8 years where he has served as the Secondary Sports Chair. Bart is also a member of SHAPE America and the Iowa Girls High School Athletic Softball Coaching Association.

Significant achievements during his career have included presenting at the PE4life Resource Conference and state IAHPERD convention, designing instruction for block and traditional scheduling – helping to organize the new curriculum transition from block to traditional scheduling, established a partnership with Farrell's Extreme Bodyshaping to receive donated equipment and free training for PE department staff as part of their professional development. He has instructed multiple formats of classes which have included: kickboxing, body pump, step aerobics, fitness bands, individual fitness in the cardio/weight room, team sports, and lifetime fitness; was part of the PE departmental team that received a grant and training from PE4life and was then designated as a PE4life model site for ongoing trainings and observations. He has led staff development on google classroom, google drive, Gclass Folders, Flubaroo, Doctopus, Goobric, and Google Hangouts.

Students receive physical education every other day all year long in grades 6-12 in the Ankeny school district and at Northview Middle School they receive a health class on the days opposite of their PE experience. Brett and his staff create a mastery climate approach in physical education where the individual students are empowered through the use of technology such as heart rate monitors and google forms and also through the choice of units they would like to learn.

Brett has begun transitioning their PE department to take a flipped learning approach where the teaching of the concepts is online so that they now have more time during class to incorporate real life application of the concepts. Brett believes that you should never stop learning and he has connected with physical educators from around the world through Twitter.

Here are few supporting statements that others made note of in their letters of recommendation for Brett....

Brett is proactive in his thinking and persistent in his quest for continuous improvement in his department. Under his guidance, the PE team regularly engages in book studies on best practices in their field and they model a growth mindset for the staff as a whole.

A student that job shadowed him stated, "His healthy lifestyle and positive influence with his peers and students are characteristics I want to emulate in my career and personal life."

I have worked with few people that have the passion and excitement for their career as Brett. He is an individual who seeks to be the best teacher, mentor, coach, and team member that he can be.

In closing, one of his letters of recommendation was very touching and powerful. It summarized all of these things and the impact he has made on his students...

One of Brett's students underwent very aggressive chemotherapy for bone cancer and a radical resection of her right fibula. Due to this, she suffered from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, so a 504 plan was established and Health/PE was not required for her. As her mother stated in her recommendation, "Michaela said that being present in his class made her feel relaxed and at peace." When she would miss class, Brett would email her all the class assignments, materials, and resources. He would foster an encouraging environment in which she could continue to feel part of the class and participate as able. "Although she was exempt from Health and PE she chose to complete every assignment Mr. Delaney offered her. She would ask that we try to hurry home from doctor appointments so she wouldn't miss his class. Her ambition for Health/PE participation was clearly developed from the empathetic, nurturing environment that Mr. Delaney created for her. This is a gift beyond measure to me. I will forever be grateful to the positive influence and life skills Mr. Delaney has provided my daughter."

Please join me in congratulating our 2015 Middle School PE Teacher of the Year, Brett Delaney.

### **Steve Fish**

Steve holds a bachelors degree from Coe College in Physical Education and a Master's Degree from Emporia State University in Physical Education. Since 1984, he has held various coaching positions at Marion High School, Central City High School, and Coe College. For 10 years he served as the Athletic Director in the Central City School District while also teaching Secondary Physical Education which he taught for 13 years. Currently, he is teaching physical education at Marion High School, as position he has held for 17 years. He has been a member of both IAHPERD and SHAPE America for 8 years. Steve is also a member of the Iowa High School Baseball Coaches Association.

Significant achievements during his time at Marion High School have included being a speaker at Ignite Education hosted by the Cedar Rapids Gazette, Presenter at the PE4life Resource Conference and at our state convention, being designated as a Polar Showcase School, receiving the Ed Thomas Coach of the Week award, and receiving the PEP Grant in 2008 and again in 2013. Beyond his school duties, he has served his community as a member of the Blue Zone Power 9 Leadership and School Policy Committee and he has helped with multiple baseball clinics for the Marion Parks and Recreation department for many years.

The goal of his program was to expand and improve it by addressing standards and creating healthier learning environments. They have done this by updating course offerings and the development of individualized fitness plans for all students. Steve spearheaded a successful partnership with the local YMCA that resulted in a fitness center at the high school where students utilize the facility and equipment after school hours and on weekends in an environment free of athletic teams. One of his recommendations stated, "He is the reason we have a collaborative partnership with the YMCA in our community. That grew out of his work and vision." Course offerings now include personal fitness, body shaping, lifetime wellness, peak performance, and Strength & Conditioning along with a brand new virtual/online class they just piloted this past school year where students are provided with a backpack that includes a chromebook, Polar E400 activity watch, and Polar H7 sensor.

Technology has provided him with an important innovative tool so that students can now understand and personalize their learning experiences during classtime. This is done through the use of the Polar Heart Rate and Activity Monitoring systems that their school now showcases. It has also enabled him to provide individualized feedback to his students and establish connections with these students as they transition out of high school and into a healthy, active adult life. He tells his students, "Life is about choices....I am trying to equip them with enough information to make good choices."

Steve is currently involved with the Blue Zone efforts in his community where they will receive assistance for implementing a blueprint for making permanent environmental, social, and policy changes that transition people into healthier behaviors. He is going to lead that transformation at the school and the entire district so that they will hopefully become the first high school in Iowa to be named a Blue Zone School.

He has provided data and research to help staff feel comfortable with incorporating physical activities in the classroom to keep students better focused. He even collaborated with the English department to develop a read and walk program. As a firm believer in the importance of Advocacy, Steve has spoken on the importance of quality physical education and the vision for their program to several local radio, newspaper, and community groups.

Here are few other excerpts from some of the letters of recommendation in support of Steve's nomination for this award.

"Steve is a consummate professional and role model for students and fellow staff. He has created his credibility through hard work, dedication, and a tremendous skill set associated with his discipline."

"In witnessing the transformation of our physical education curriculum, it is apparent that more students are taking a much greater role in their personal wellbeing and fitness plans. There is more excitement from students and they are better educated as to how they should exercise, not just that they should exercise."

"Mr. Fish does all that he can to instruct his audience with innovation and understanding. Mr. Fish has proven to be a man of integrity with a commitment to health and wellness."

In closing, as one of his letters of recommendations stated, "He is an outstanding educator, leader, collaborator, and positive influence on those around him."

Please join me in congratulating our 2015 High School PE Teacher of the Year, Steve Fish.