

Autobiography

This autobiography has been written to introduce the reader to me, Jeffrey John Antoon, and to show how my life experiences have led me to become a teacher. I was born in 1969 in Canoga Park, CA and have lived in and about Southern California for about 24 years. I attended Notre Dame High School in Sherman Oaks, CA and graduated in 1988 with a 3.8 GPA. I grew up with athletics and played football, basketball and baseball during my high school years. I earned a scholarship to play baseball at University of California at Santa Barbara where I majored in History and earned my bachelor's degree in 1993 with a 2.8 G.P.A. From there, the Kansas City Royals drafted me to professional baseball, where I played for 2 ½ years.

When I finished playing baseball, I started a second career in education by starting a credential program at National University in Los Angeles. I finished taking my preliminary classes and decided to pursue the job market. I had a tough time trying to obtain a position in the teaching profession in 1995, so I decided to move to Phoenix. In Phoenix, I learned many things from life, especially how much I wanted to really work with kids in the classroom and as a coach on the field. I moved back to LA to continue work in the educational field and reenrolled in the program in 2000. After the move, I interviewed for a few openings and finally chose St. John Bosco High School in Bellflower, CA because I felt they were a perfect fit for a beginning teacher. I stayed at St. John Bosco for three years learning a lot about myself and my pedagogy.

Since my 1st job in teaching, I have had the opportunity to move a few times to accommodate my wife's job and her advancement with her career. I landed my next teaching job at The Overlake School in Seattle, WA and subsequently earned a credential from the state of Washington. I taught at this private school (6-12) for 2 years where I had the opportunity to be very creative with the curriculum. I incorporated a real time strategy game into the Ancient Chinese section which allowed to students to work in real time as opposed to just reading or listening to a lecture. We then decided to move back to California so our son could be close to his father and I landed a job at Ygnacio Valley HS in Concord, CA. Here, I learned many ways to teach to a lower socio-economic population than my previous school and I taught 2 years at this public school before accepting a position at Monte Vista High School in Danville, CA where I am currently teaching.

At Ygnacio Valley, I started to work with student teachers and the school of education at St. Mary's College in Moraga, CA. I had the opportunity to be a master teacher for 4 years working with many different types of personalities helping them succeed on learning how to teach history to their own classrooms. I also worked as an adjunct professor at St. Mary's teaching graduate students how to plan lessons as they progress through their student teaching.

At Monte Vista, I have really started to gel my teaching and work with the students needs of the 21st century. As a result, I was ranked 9th favorite teacher by students via www.ratemyteacher.com. I had the opportunity to work on SITE council for two years and oversee the climate of the school. I received a technology grant for a new computer and remotes that I incorporated right away into my classroom. I have continued to strive to reach new heights in my teaching trying to absorb all the new and latest technology.

I take pride in the fact that even though I finished my basic education in life, I am always striving to better myself, my classroom, and my delivery to make my class the best that it can be. I have a BA in History from University of California at Santa Barbara (1993) and my Masters in Education from National University (2002). I am currently looking at different universities to start the administration credential process and also continue to find ways to learn about technology.

I am married with three children and live in Dublin, CA.