

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Jan. 29, 2016

Ted Dille is no stranger to fear. He sees it in the faces of his math students at the start of each grading period.

But he's ready. He knows he can make math make sense.



While studying civil engineering at Otterbein University, he took time to help a fellow student with the math class they were in.

"An hour later I decided to change my major," Ted said.

With a bachelor's degree in math and education, Ted was hired out of college by Logan Elm High School, his alma mater, where he taught math for eight years. He applied to Pickaway-Ross and joined the faculty here in the fall.

"I sent a lot of Logan Elm kids here. I always got to see them at the front end but never got to see how they finished. Now I will."

He knows that the subject he teaches has a reputation.

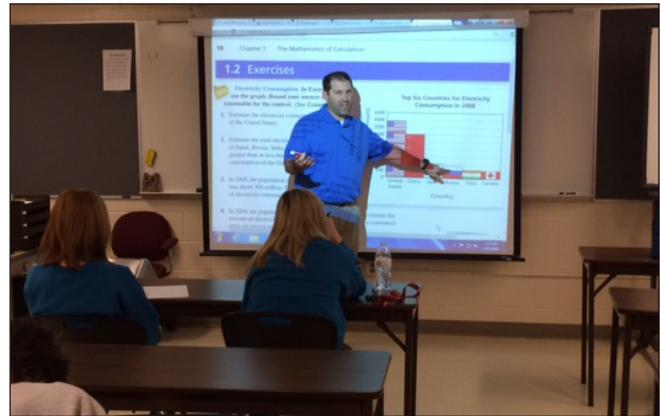
"Kids walk in, petrified, with a look of despair. At the end of the day, I want them to like math a little more each day."

Ted can relate to what his students experience, being nervous himself when he started at Pickaway-Ross.

"Logan Elm was all I've known for 21 years," he said. "But after the first week or two, I went home and told my wife, 'I really like it here.'"

"The kids are great and there is a good communication among staff," Ted said.

"I like how lab and academic instructors work



Ted Dille goes over math problems with students in his Consumer Math class.

together. If a student is having a problem in my class, it's a good influence on the student if the lab instructor is involved. That (career program) is why they came here."

Ted teaches two algebra courses and consumer math, which he says is his favorite.

"Consumer Math is applicable items for kids from lesson one to the end," he said, explaining that students learn about checkbooks, credit cards and the negative outcome of only making a minimum payment on a debt.

"What I like about teaching is seeing kids grow, not just in mental capacity but in attitude."

His ability to reach students isn't a secret. When I told my wife, Gail, a counselor at Logan Elm, that I was offering Ted a job, she said, "Ted will be great and the Pickaway-Ross students will love him. In fact, he's the one math teacher we assign any students who need a little extra help. We will really miss him."

And once again, my wife was right.

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