

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • Feb. 19, 2016

After graduating from Lancaster High School, Katie Hewitt went to work for Waldenbooks. It was that decision that unknowingly put her on the path to teaching.



At Waldenbooks, Katie worked with teachers and librarians and considered pursuing a career as a librarian. But while earning her bachelor's degree at Ohio University, she said, "I fell in love with teaching in the classroom."

Instead of continuing her education by immediately pursuing a master's degree in Library Science at Kent State University, Katie decided to be an English teacher.

That a-ha moment for Katie came while student-teaching, when she was able to see students have *their* a-ha moment.

"I love working with kids who find a way to relate to literature that is really exciting and rewarding."

While Katie's favorite subject is American English, loving the content of authors such as John Steinbeck and Kurt Vonnegut, she appreciates that there are young adult authors who are making reading and literature fun for students.

But interacting with students and helping them to reach their goals is one of her favorite parts of teaching.

Katie's father, Kirk, teaches the junior Electrical Technologies program. Before Kirk joined Pickaway-Ross he was an electrician and her grandfather was a machinist.

This family background, Katie said, allows her to connect with students.



Katie Hewitt works with students during a class that met in the library. Students were studying song lyrics as poetry.

"I come from the same kind of family that these kids do. It helps me relate to them and their goals," she said.

She's able to apply that background to assignments for students. For example, for her students in Mr. Brohard's Electrical Technologies program, instead of a traditional research paper, they have the option of creating a manual about the program or a how-to guide for operating a tool.

Other students will need to find a current posting for a job they might want someday and write a cover letter for that position.

"They have to use the same skills for a research paper – research and writing – but it makes a real-world connection."

Katie loves helping students find that connection and feels that working at a career center is the right fit for her.

"I appreciate what we do here for these kids."

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