

# Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • March 11, 2016

Alex Short's first contact with career-tech education was when she took the sophomore tour while a South-eastern High School student. She would return to Pickaway-Ross for the 2012-13 school year as a long-term substitute history teacher.



"When I subbed here, I fell in love with career tech," she said.

That affection has only grown after she was hired full time as a history teacher. But it was a close call. Alex had just moved to Missouri with her fiancé, Evan, who moved there for medical school, when she learned of the opening.

"We had to have a serious conversation about what to do," she said. "But there was no way I wasn't going to take it," she said of the job. So she took all the boxes that hadn't yet been unpacked, loaded up her Fiat and came back to Ohio.

The fact that Alex pursued a teaching career isn't a surprise. Her aunt, dad and grandfather are teachers.

"I've been surrounded by educators my whole life."

There are several subjects that are near and dear to her heart besides history. An avid reader, Alex recalls reading the Harry Potter books in elementary school. Her father, fellow history teacher Darren Plessinger, was doubtful that she was reading the books because she finished them so quickly.

"He would open a book and choose a section at random and quiz me on the books," Alex said. "But those books sparked my love of reading."

Her other interests include anthropology, archeol-



Alex Short explains due process to students in her American Government class.

ogy and ancient civilizations. But thanks to her dad's influence, history won out when choosing her major while at Miami University.

"I'm fascinated by ancient civilizations but more modern history has a connection to us now," she said. "The founding fathers are not demigods. They were just regular people."

She also studied drama while at Miami, earning a minor in theater. She plans to put her experience in set-dressing to work creating decorations for prom as the Student Council co-advisor.

"I'm so excited for prom! I have all these ideas of what you can make. All you need is cardboard and tissue paper."

Her enthusiasm for all things career tech spills over to her students, who enjoy sharing with her what they make in class.

"I love when kids show me their projects and I've had kids give me projects. They inspire me in so many ways."

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