

Career Tech Matters

by Dennis Franks • April 24, 2015

For most of his career, Bruce Hurst has worn two hats: teacher and coach. For Bruce, though, each role is about connecting with kids.



Bruce, a Piketon native, joined Pickaway-Ross' main campus this year after working as Pickaway-Ross' Career Based Intervention teacher at Paint Valley and Chillicothe for four years.



Bruce Hurst

Bruce has a bachelor's degree in math education and has now come full circle to teaching math, which he taught for more than two decades before being a satellite teacher.

He also teaches VLA and is pleased with the progress students have made in his first year.

Principal Shara Cochenour said Bruce's VLA class was created specifically for the purpose of getting credit-deficient students on track for their senior year.

Of 20 students who were credit deficient in the fall, 18 are on track to complete all of their classes, Bruce said.

"It's been very successful," Shara said.

Bruce enjoys teaching consumer math, which he says prepares students for real life.

"It's relatable to what they'll need in life," Bruce said.

Making a connection with kids and tying classroom learning with life lessons is one of the things Bruce likes about teaching at a career center.

"I like that the kids are here because they want to be here," he said. "They get to spend half a day doing what they want to do."

Bruce, who also is an assistant varsity football coach at Chillicothe High School, views teaching and coaching as being very similar.

"In both roles, I'm helping guide them as they learn life skills. I feel like I am able to make a difference in kids' lives.

"I want them to be successful in life, not just in the classroom," Bruce said.

Dennis Franks is superintendent of Pickaway-Ross Career & Technology Center. He can be reached at dennis.franks@pickawayross.com.



Bruce works with students during a recent Consumer Math class.