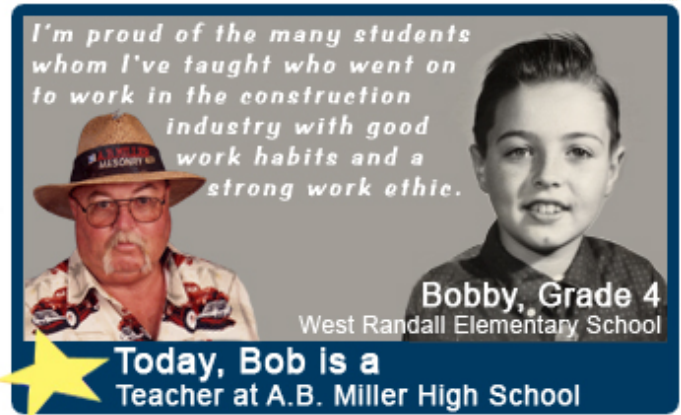


"Fontana Star" is our web series profiling district staff and alumni who are distinguished for their dedication on behalf of students, commitment to excellence and notable accomplishments in service of FUSD.



Bob Freeman

shares how he is inspired



Profile in Excellence:

Bob Freeman, Teacher

FUSD Schools Attended:

- West Randall Elementary
- Fontana Junior High
- Fontana High School

Higher Education:

- Chaffey Junior College
- University of California, Riverside

FUSD Career Experiences:

- 13 years as a Masonry Teacher
- 11 years as girls softball coach at A.B. Miller High School

Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?

Mrs. Cameron 4th grade, Mr. Dean Gahre 6th grade (both at West Randall), Mr. Earl Davis (History at Fontana Jr. High), Mrs. Karlene Allen (English) and Mr. Jim Carmean (Woodshop - both at Fohi). Mrs. Cameron was a kind, caring teacher who inspired me. Mr. Gahre was a man's man who treated all of us with respect and was an outstanding role model. Mrs. Allen made English fun even though I never liked my English classes!! Mr. Davis was a father figure as a teacher and baseball coach and showed respect for every student. Mr. Carmean taught me how to work with my hands and to keep working until the job was complete and was done correctly. Basically, he prepared me to become a lifelong tradesman and vocational teacher and remains one of my close friends today!!

What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?

I dreamed of being a pro baseball player, but since that didn't work out, I decided to emulate Earl Davis as a teacher and coach who respected kids and made it fun to come to school.

Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?

Watching both of my daughters, Brandi and Jodi, my 2 nephews and my niece attend and graduate from A.B. Miller is the highlight of my teaching career in the FUSD. Also, I'm proud of the many students whom I've taught who went on to work in the construction industry with good work habits and a strong work ethic (and who are making more money than I am right now!!). Further, the friendships I've developed with many of my softball players, fellow coaches and colleagues will last a lifetime!

What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?

Worrying if I will live long enough to retire for a second time! I previously retired from the masonry industry after 27 years in the trade. I'm now in my 13th year at A.B. Miller!

<p>What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?</p>	<p><i>My biggest concern is that parents and the public think we can solve all of their childrens' and society's problems when we have them for such a very short time!! We can only do what we can do. Parents are and will always be the biggest influence and indicator of success in their kids' lives.</i></p>
<p>What can the community do to strengthen public education?</p>	<p><i>Turn off the television, the video games, the computer and know where their kids are at all times. Most importantly, they need to show their kids love and respect. Children learn what they live and they rise, and sometimes fall, to the level of expectations given them.</i></p>
<p>What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?</p>	<p><i>The four teachers I mentioned above gave their very best for me. I'm just returning the favor. I'm also giving my all because Mike Micallef, Susanne Harriger, George Dancuse, Trudy Shaw, John Graham, Bill Gruber and Cheryl Heath among many others too numerous to mention gave their all when I first arrived here 13 years ago.</i></p>
<p>What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?</p>	<p><i>I used to be a "River Rat"; I've had Angels season tickets for 31 years; I am a veteran of both the United States Army AND Air Force; I am an animal lover; my Associate of Arts degree is in Police Science, I'm a descendant of the Mayflower; I'm a first cousin three times removed with Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, my ancestors fought in the Revolutionary and Civil wars and WWII: I am a direct descendant of King Charles the Bald (of Scotland, I think) and I USED TO HAVE A FULL HEAD OF HAIR!!</i></p>

If you know of a "Fontana Star," particularly one who was an FUSD alumnus, you can nominate him or her to be featured by emailing webmaster@fUSD.net. Please provide your name, the name of the individual being nominated, contact information for both of you and a brief description as to why you think the individual qualifies as a Fontana Star.