



Fontana STAR

Jeff Ragan

shares how he is inspired



Profile in Excellence: Jeff Ragan, Teacher at Fontana High School	
FUSD Schools Attended:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jurupa Hills Elementary School • Palmetto Elementary School • Fontana Junior High School • Fontana High School
Higher Education:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Wyoming • Cal State Fullerton • University of California, Riverside • Azusa Pacific University
FUSD Career Experiences:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • History Teacher – Sequoia Junior High School (3 years) • Social Studies Teacher – Fontana High School (18 years)
Who were the FUSD staff that affected you most as a student?	<p><i>All of my teachers at Palmetto were excellent! Mrs. Taylor was strict. However, she cared for her students and expected students to reach certain standards. Mr. Strahan allowed us to use our imagination in the classroom. At Fontana Jr. High, Mr. Baldwin and Mr. Roberts helped students appreciate the history of our great country. At Fohi, I was lucky to have many great teachers. Several teachers that left an impression on me to this day are Mrs. Crane (science), Mrs. Rue (English), Mr. MacKinney (government teacher and coach) and Mr. Dison (English). Football was king at Fohi! It was a fantastic program to play for! I was fortunate enough to have Coach Bruich as head coach. He had a great staff of coaches and great fans to support the team. Coach Bruich taught us that hard work is the key to success and that "doing the little things" were important on the field, in the classroom, and in your life. Those were great years!</i></p>
What did you dream of growing-up to be as a child that would lead you to your work with FUSD?	<p><i>I was not sure what I wanted to do after high school. I knew that college was the next step though. My parents were both teachers in FUSD for many years (Mom for 37 years and Dad for 35 years), so teaching seemed like a good choice. My parents were both interested in social studies and I had great social studies teachers in the Fontana district.</i></p>
Since you've joined FUSD as staff, what experience(s) have you been most proud of?	<p><i>I enjoy seeing former students who remember you and something that you did or said in class. It is great to see young people grow and become responsible adults. God has blessed my wife and I with four healthy children that have given me purpose when I leave school each day!</i></p>

What keeps you up at night about your work for FUSD?	<i>Really, there is nothing.</i>
What do you think is the biggest misconception the public has about our work?	<i>That teaching is easy and that teachers can solve ALL societal problems. The public should know that teachers are instructors, counselors, and often take on parental roles within the classroom.</i>
What can the community do to strengthen public education?	<i>Prepare their OWN CHILDREN for entrance into school! Parents need to take a proactive role in general. They need to monitor their child's progress, read to their children when they are young, and be sure to read information that is sent home from the school!</i>
What inspires you to give your very best for the students of FUSD?	<i>It is my job, so I feel that I should do my best each day. I try to teach my classes as if my own children were in the class. My former teachers and my parents have had a great influence on how I run my classroom.</i>
What might staff or students be surprised to learn about you?	<i>That I love to be in the mountains enjoying nature, or hiking and fishing with my family.</i>

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.