



welcome



and you are?

Someone once asked Joe DiMaggio, center fielder for the New York Yankees, why he was always diving for the ball and trying his hardest during every game. His response has become the creed by which I teach:

"There is always some kid who may be seeing me for the first or last time, and I owe him my best."

I was born in Lansing, Michigan on October 1, 1977 and lived my first six months in Holt, Michigan before moving to Westerville in 1978. I attended both Robert Frost and Mark Twain Elementary Schools (Class of 1989), Walnut Springs Middle School (Class of 1992), and Westerville North High School (Class of 1996).

I went to Michigan State University and earned my B.A. Degree in History with a Minor in Geography in 2000. I completed my Teacher Certification in Secondary Education in 2001, and as part of the program at MSU, I taught history for the 2000-2001 school year at Holt High School in Michigan (ironically back in my birth city). In 2005, I completed my Master in the Art of Teaching (M.A.T.) in the areas of Curriculum, Instruction, and Assessment through Marygrove College in Detroit. I attended Walden University of Minneapolis from 2008-2011 and earned my doctorate (Ed.D.) in Teacher/Educational Leadership.



why history?

In 2012, I began coursework at Otterbein University to add a TESOL Endorsement to my license. (TESOL means Teachers of English to Speakers of Other Languages.) In 2014, I finished my studies and passed the state certification test to officially receive the TESOL Endorsement. By 2016, I successfully turned this endorsement into a Master of Arts in Education (M.A.E.) degree with a focusing strand on TESOL (also through Otterbein). I'm an incredibly passionate "life-long" learner and challenge myself by taking educational classes whenever (and wherever) the opportunity arises.

I love history. Why? Because everyone has a "story"! Where are you from? What's your past? Who's in your past? How different is your story from the people around you? Have your paths ever crossed?

Your story is written every day of your life. Your actions, your behavior, and your decisions all influence your "story".

Some stories are ones of hardship. Some stories are ones of triumph. Collectively, however, they form the fabric of our nation. Good or bad, they become "our story".

Embrace your story. Share it with the world. Never be embarrassed by your past. It's part of who you are. It's a component of your story. It's a component of your life. In the end, it's *your* story. What do you plan to do with it?



go on...

Over the course of the year, students will be given a chance to study history in a whole new light. According to Kenneth C. Davis, author of *Don't Know Much About History*, "Much of what we remember about our history is either mistaken or fabricated... that is, if we remember it at all!" Davis concluded, "For all those who dozed through history class before, the Mayflower Compact may as well be a small car. Reconstruction has something to do with silicone implants. And the Louisiana Purchase means dinning at a Cajun restaurant."

So often what we learn as "history" comes from Hollywood and has been cleaned up to fit into a nice red, white, and blue package. History is much more than some actor uttering a catchy one-liner in a historically inaccurate blockbuster. History is made by people like you and me. Myths have been told and re-told so often that they are eventually mistaken as facts and dished out to the public. Our job as historians is to sift through these myths, look at history from multiple perspectives, uncover what really happened (no matter how ugly), and learn from its lessons.

Coupled with unique discussions, debates, and lectures, I take a "well-rounded" approach to engage my students and ensure they have a say in their learning. This comes in the form of enrichment lessons, community projects, and individualized research.



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