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- Bruce Hayes

# COACH and TEACHER BRUCE HAYES

Cinco Ranch High School's Coach Hayes uses humor and heart to impact the lives of his students

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Photography by Sara Isola



Hayes inspires his students to excel in the classroom, on the field, and in life

After 31 years in the profession, the Cinco Ranch High School coach and teacher has a zeal for teaching that makes teens absolutely love his class. He takes a personal interest in all his students, and approaches his work not as a job, but a calling. "I love literature. Through literature you can get to know the kids better than any subject because they are giving their opinions instead of just one answer. It's fun and it's meaningful. You feel that you are making an impact," says Hayes.

### **Words From Students**

Hayes has inspired students in their career choices and life. "He was, and still is, a great role model for me," says Jordin Wilkins, a 2014 Cinco Ranch graduate. "The way he teaches with passion and cares for his students helped me make my decision to become a teacher. I want to be able to make a difference in a student's life the way he made a difference in mine. I will never forget his infectious smile and corny jokes."

"To me he was more of a father figure who I could always come and talk to when needed," says Jordin's sister Camerin Wilkins, a recent graduate. "I would talk to him about personal things and he would respond with advice that was very uplifting and positive. He has made me consider majoring in English and teaching as a possible career path."

"His teaching methods and compassion for his students have not only shaped the way I learn, but have shaped the way I am as a person," says graduate Shannon Woolsey. "He's been the teacher I've respected the most by far. He's taught us a lot more than just English; he's taught us about life," says graduate Matt Morales.

### **Boyhood Dream**

Hayes always wanted to teach, and when he was younger he played football and soccer, both of which he now coaches. He grew up in Miami and came to Texas while a college student at Baylor University. Hayes taught in Miami, Arlington, Conroe, and Japan. He started teaching English at Cinco Ranch High School in 2008.

Hayes considers coaching a different environment to teach in, and says that losing seasons can be just as valuable to students as winning seasons. "I like to win, but if we win, we win; if we lose, we lose," he says. "Your time and your effort in the sport, and every day doing your best is the focus."

### **Classroom Creativity**

There is never a dull moment in Coach Hayes' class, the students say. "He is constantly coming up with ways to turn traditional learning into exciting lessons," student, Nikki King describes. "One of my favorite memories of Coach Hayes is when he dressed up as Juliet when we were reading *Romeo and Juliet* freshman year," recalls graduate Rebecca Harle.

"During Christmas, he would take the time to wrap over 100 presents for students that ranged from a piece of paper with his face on it, funny McDonald's gifts, to a Cinco shirt," Woolsey remembers.

"I'll always remember walking into his class the first day of freshman year and thinking, 'Who is this crazy, bald guy running around the classroom,'" says Harle. Coach Hayes' English class quickly became one of her favorite classes to go to every day. "He is so influential because he cares so much about his students and keeps up with our daily lives."

"He has the uncanny ability to involve everyone in the room and make them feel special," Channell Bradford says. "Coach Hayes has always pushed me to do more and think outside the box. We tackle subjects in class that make it impossible to be a passive bystander."

### **Grateful for Opportunities**

Many of his early students are now adults with their own families, and Hayes says it's fun to see how they've grown. He feels fortunate to do what he does. "I know with confidence what God wants me to do, and I'm glad He is giving me the opportunity to do it." **KM**

*TONYA ELLIS counted English as one of her favorite subjects when she was a high school student.*

## **Kudos for Coach Hayes**



*"Coach Hayes encourages us to be ourselves and to be kind to others. He doesn't try to limit our creativity, and loves to hear our opinions."*

- Kendall Crow

*"He was placed in Katy, TX for a reason, and that reason has been to make a change in students' lives. He has already done that and more."*

- Nikki King

*"He can always find the positive side to anything and bring them out to make his students realize not everything is meant to bring you down."*

- Shannon Woolsey