

BECK JUNIOR HIGH

“The most important life lesson he taught me is that anything is possible through dedication and hard work.”

**- Cole Henry
Former Student**



Beck Junior High coach and social studies teacher, Rick Frank, supports his students even after they move on to high school



Photo by Candace Cook

“Whether I’m teaching or coaching, I want the students or athletes to know that the only secret to success is hard work. The more you put into anything, the more rewarding it will be.”

- Rick Frank

KEEPING STUDENTS ON TRACK

Beck Junior High coach and social studies teacher, Rick Frank, inspires students to do their best in the classroom and on the track

Written by Kennan Buckner

All of Rick Frank's 10 years of teaching have been at Beck Junior High (BJH). "I love working and living in the same community," Frank says. "Of course, the absolute best thing is the students. Beck has the best students in Katy."

ALWAYS DO YOUR BEST

When it comes to keeping students' attention, Frank works hard to keep class interesting. "I try to make every lesson I teach fun," he says. "I believe that if students enjoy walking into your classroom every day, then teaching the subject matter is easy."

BJH Principal Carra Daniels says that Frank has transformed the entire coaching staff and that his caring leadership is infectious among fellow teachers. "He wants to and does include everyone," she says. He doesn't treat students any differently. Daniels adds, "Kids don't want to disappoint him because they know how much he cares."

WARM AND WELCOMING

Cinco Ranch High School (CRHS) graduate and 2015 salutatorian Jenny Xiao, is now a student at Yale University. She was in Frank's class in sixth grade. "Having just moved to America, it was very helpful for me to have someone so warm and welcoming," says Xiao. "Ever since, Mr. Frank has always been a person I can go to for advice and support." She says his belief in her helped make her the person she is today. To show her thanks, Xiao invited him as one of her two guests at Katy ISD's dinner honoring the top graduates. "It was such an honor to have a student that I taught six years before invite me," says Frank.

SUPPORTING STUDENTS

Cole Henry is a 2016 CRHS graduate and freshman at St. Edwards University. Frank was his track coach. "He made learning fun and always tried to get to know his students," says Henry. "Because of him, I became much more interested in the world and the people in it, and that led me to choose political science as my major." Frank is known to go out of his way to show his support. "I remember my junior year after I ran at the regional meet and we qualified for state, he was the first person I saw after I crossed the

finish line," says Henry. "It really meant a lot that he drove all that way to see his former students and runners compete for a chance to go to state."

NEVER GIVE UP

CRHS sophomore Holly Dasher was coached by Frank in seventh and eighth grade. "He still comes to my high school cross country meets," she says. "During our race, he runs from side to side to give us tips and tells us what we need to do to improve and win the race," shares Dasher. "I have seen him turn people who have never run before, including me, into district champions." Inspired by him, Dasher hopes to become a coach herself. "He makes sure everyone is always included in meets, team events, and during class." The most valuable lesson Dasher learned from him is to never give up because you can do anything you want.

INSTILLING INTEGRITY

Madison Ecklund is a sophomore at CRHS. Frank was her sixth-grade social studies teacher and seventh- and eighth-grade track coach. "He has taught me to have confidence and that having integrity will take me places," says Ecklund. In class, he always made sure students knew they were cared about. "He held us all responsible, yet was understanding when we had trouble," she says.

BULLDOG PRIDE

Frank was inspired by his stepmother, Eleanor, to become a teacher. While they were on vacation in Europe, his stepmother noticed someone staring at her. "The lady came over and told my stepmother that she had been her teacher 20 years before. I figured that any job where someone, after 20 years and half a world away, would come over and tell you what a difference you made in their life, must be a pretty good job." His Bulldog pride and love for students runs deep. "In my 10 years here, I've never had a bad day," Frank says. "I genuinely love my job. I work for amazing people, and the Beck students and parents are the best." KM

KENNAN BUCKNER is a freelance writer and mom to her always smiling 1-year-old son, Jaxson.