

2012 CHSSA Hall of Fame Inductee

David Matley



If on that fateful day David Matley had not walked past Sanford Chandler's speech and debate portable at Washington High School and been introduced to forensics in 1988, his life may have taken a completely different turn. At St. Mary's High School in Stockton, CA David Matley participated in drama and sports and gave little thought to speech and debate competition. After graduating from Cal Poly, SLO in English and Mathematics, David was finishing his master's degree in American Literature and student teaching at Washington High School when the forensics bug bit him.

"What excited me most about forensics" he explains, "was the fact that this activity challenged students on an intellectual and artistic level well beyond anything else in high school." After accepting a teaching and coaching position at Monte Vista HS, Danville in 1989, David Matley never looked back. At Monte Vista, he taught all grade levels in English, two sections of drama, and a very popular course in creative writing. But his speech and debate classes gave him the opportunity to engage his students on a much higher level in a variety of disciplines and soon became his sole focus and passion.

During his tenure at Monte Vista, David Matley has earned 4 diamonds and more than 23,000 NFL points. Two assistant coaches also earned diamonds under Mr. Matley. His many honors include Alamo Rotary Club Educator of the Year 1994, GGSA Coach of the Year 2002-03, San Ramon Valley Unified School District Teacher of the Year Candidate 2008, California State Assembly Commendation 2009, and Harry J. Aslan Fellow. He has qualified over 200 students to the State Tournament and over 120 students to Nationals. Mr. Matley has coached 20 State Champions including 9 State Champions in congress (five as speakers and four as presiding officers) and 6 State Champions in international extemp. Mr. Matley's students have also finished first in the State in humorous interpretation, dramatic interpretation, original oratory, public forum debate, and impromptu. At Nationals, Mr. Matley's students finished in the top 10 in their event 22 times, including the 2000 National Champion in Lincoln Douglas Debate and National Champion Presiding Officers in 2003 and 2010. At Nationals, the Monte Vista squad has won 5 School of Excellence Awards and the Karl E. Mundt Award in Congress.



In addition to coaching and teaching, Mr. Matley has served as a leader in the forensics community through various roles including San Fran Bay District Chair, GGSA Congress Director, NFL Parliamentarian & Extemp Official, and as a member of the CHSSA Council since 2002. As CHSSA Congress Chair, Mr. Matley oversaw the development and modernizing of Student Congress at both the league and State level. Through his summer institutes, Mr. Matley has introduced forensics to 100's of elementary, middle and high school students throughout the East Bay each year since 1992, and recently has added a Speech Outreach after school enrichment program that utilizes high school students to teach speech and debate to middle school students.

But if you ask Mr. Matley, his greatest honor he explains "my family, of course--my two beautiful children, Emily and Jackson and my wife Lori. They have traveled with me to countless tournaments, put up with my March mood swings around qualifying time, and spend four weeks of their summer working as slave labor at our speech camps. To get that kind of support for your passion is truly the greatest honor of all."