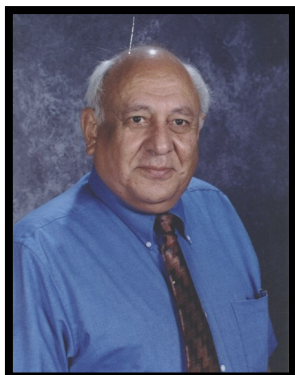


# Michael Gonzalez

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## CHSSA HALL OF FAME 1992



Michael Gonzalez is revered as one of GGSA's longest serving veteran coaches and has worn many hats. Michael, a third generation native Californian, was born in Oxnard, went through local public and private schools. The big move came when he transferred for his ninth grade to Santa Barbara to be educated by the Franciscans. He graduated with a BA in Philosophy and Social Studies. He continued with three years of Theological studies. In 1963 he decided it was time for a change. In the fall he was hired by St. Vincent H.S. in Petaluma to teach Spanish and Latin. He continued his education at San Francisco and Sonoma State, where he earned his teaching credential and Spanish degree.

Subtle changes were occurring at St. Vincent. He was never one to say no to a new challenge. Before he knew it he was vice-principal, athletic director, athletic coach, Activities director, and speech and debate coach. In an article written by Dan Johnson of the Petaluma Argus it is told that, One day in the early '60's a group of nuns teaching at St. Vincent de Paul... were scurrying around trying to find someone to drive the speech and debate team members to a competition. They spotted Michael Gonzalez, a new, young faculty member, and roped him into the job. One of them urged Michael to drive, saying, "You are not doing anything on Friday, and you're single." "I enjoyed the experience, and kept driving the team to other competitions." Gonzalez said. Soon thereafter, Gonzalez embarked on a forty-two year career as coach of a highly successful team. He was also very much involved as a GGSA officer. He held every GGSA office. He was GGSA president for many years, was area one chairperson, served as a member of the SFNFL district committee and served as a member of CHSSA state council. As a GGSA officer he was one of the driving forces in writing the current GGSA constitution. In 1972 there was another big, easy decision. He married his wife Linda, who has been very supportive of all his activities.

Many of his former students are now educators including speech and debate coaches. CHSSA Hall of Fame coach Lynette Williamson is one of those gems. She recently wrote: "I have known Mike for three and a half decades: as a student in the 70's, as a colleague in the 80's, and as a rival coach in the 90's. I applaud his high level curriculum, expectations in the classroom, his integrity as a coach and the fact that his judgment on sensitive issues is revered by coaches throughout the state. Mike's amazing dedication to the students of St. Vincent High School and GGSA is a gift to us all.



For his dedication and service to the California High School Speech Association and it's students, Michael Gonzalez was inducted into the CHSSA Hall of Fame in 1992.

Mike has not slowed down in retirement: still substitutes and tutors. In addition, since 1988 he and his wife have run a very successful art gallery.