

TEACHER SPOTLIGHT: KEITH PADGETT

By: Nakiya Davis and Adaliz Delatour

For over 30 years, Keith Padgett has dedicated his life to educating students, and for the



past 24 years, he has been an integral part of the Belleville East High School community. With a passion for both history and geography, Mr. Padgett is known for making complex subjects engaging and relatable whether he is diving into the past or exploring the connections between people and places in AP Human Geography.

Mr. Padgett's love for teaching is rooted in the new growth he witnesses in his students. He says "Watching the kids grow and learn new things, then watching them apply that knowledge", is what keeps him motivated year after year. He particularly enjoys teaching the agriculture unit in AP Human Geography. In U.S. History he finds World War II to be a particularly rewarding topic.

When Mr. Padgett has free time outside of school, he typically enjoys riding his bicycle. "I enjoy riding my bicycle. I ride about 1800 miles each year, including riding across the state of Missouri as a fundraiser for the Colleen Nesbit Memorial Foundation." Mr. Padgett also coaches the JV Girls Basketball team. Aside from his ventures outside of academics, Mr. Padgett has also been recognized for excellence in the classroom. In 2015, Mr. Padgett won the Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award. While he acknowledges that it was nice to be recognized, some

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of his proudest moments are when he receives notes or messages from former students relating his teaching to their own lives. “That is so awesome!” He says.

Keith Padgett’s dedication to his students both in and out of the classroom has greatly impacted Belleville East over the past years and will continue to for many more. Mr. Padgett’s lessons go beyond just academics, as even his lessons about farming will resonate. He encourages his students to have a voice, as well as to find their sense of self. As Mr. Padgett says every Friday, “Stand up for what you believe in, even if you’re standing alone.”