

FRED STAFFORD



Years at Piedmont

- 1976-2009: Health, PE, Boys Basketball Coach

Awards and Recognitions relating to Piedmont

- Dedication Award 1985 and 1986
- Athletic Appreciation Award 1982, 1984, 1985 and 1988
- Minority Achievement Award 1998
- Who's Who Among American Teachers 2005-2006
- Six Undefeated Basketball Championships

Awards and Recognitions outside of Piedmont

- Basketball Coach of the Year 1994, 1996 and 1999
- Volleyball Official Distinguished Service Award 2008-2009
- Volleyball 15 years Officials Award 2008-2009
- Track Team Award 1976-1977
- Charlotte Parks and Recreation Outstanding Playground Director Award 1981
- Coached a conference champion Cross Country team at Halifax High School, South Boston, Virginia 197

What does it mean to you to be a Piedmont Pirate?

- I was a part of individuals who are arguably the most important members of society. We give children purpose, set them up for success as citizens of our world, and inspire in them a drive to do well and succeed in life. I keep in touch with many of my former students, and I can say the majority of them have done great in their chosen fields.

What do you say about Piedmont when someone asks?

- In 1972 a special group of parents, students and teachers undertook a mission to develop a school based on the belief that each child is unique and that education should be child centered. In later years I think Piedmont stood as a symbol of their individuality and commitment to lifelong learning.

What is your fondest memory of Piedmont?

- One memory, at our last staff meeting before my retirement. Mrs. Gardner gave gifts to staff members retiring, and those being transferred to other schools. I got mine last. As I walked back to my table I was overwhelmed with emotion and started crying. Mrs. Gardner decided not to have a staff meeting.
- Another memory, as Mrs. Gardner and I went to my retirement celebration I introduced her to one of my former high school teachers who was also on the school board. When he got up to speak he told me to stand and he told the audience that I was one of his.

How do you feel about receiving this honor?

- I am humbled and thankful to receive this honor to be added to this great list of individuals. I was truly surprised and blessed. I would

like to thank the committee and all those involved in making this gift possible.

What encouraging words would you like to leave with future Piedmont Pirates?

- Keep studies as your first priority
- Set smart goals
- Manage your time wisely
- Pay attention to what teachers teach
- Take part in classroom and school activities
- Work hard, Pray hard, Play hard