

ONCE A REBEL
ALWAYS
A REBEL



"In 2014 I retired from the Arapahoe County Sheriff's Office after a very fun career, however, since I am young, and my wife is still working, I needed something to do. I had graduated from Columbine in 1978, all three of my daughters also graduated from Columbine. I was able to raise my family in this community, and I have grown up loving the school, the people, and the community. I choose to come back because I felt like it was time to give back to the community, especially after everything that it has done for me and my family." -Paul Dugdale



"I started coaching softball two years prior to coming back and teaching. I just loved the community, the teachers, and the coaches, so I've been here 25 years now. Even back in 1994 when I was here there was still a family commitment. The teachers really took care of you, they understood you and kept in touch. My first few years teaching here were an incredible experience because of the support I had from my mentors who really supported and took care of me." -Mrs. DiManna



"It took me a little bit to realize that I wanted to [come back here]. I went through this phase of realizing what I was given when I was growing up in this community, and that before I could give that to anyone else I would want to return, to remind myself of the reasons why I was lucky, before I could give that to anyone else. The easiest thing to say would be that Columbine gave my brothers and I a sense of community, but also it reminded me of the fragility of life. Teaching me to reach out to people in times of need, and to come together during hard times, it also showed me that school is more than a place where kids are just passing through a building. Columbine is a reminder of what matters." -Mr. Varney



"Coming back to teach at Columbine felt comfortable, this is what I know and what I love, so coming back was an easy decision. I was at Chatfield for two years before I took the job here, although both schools have very similar demographics and staff makeup, there is something about Columbine that is just more cohesive and inclusive. The environment feels more like home. I work really well with my department and we all have a good understanding of both the students we are teaching and the material, which brings us all together. Columbine is home!" -Ms. Tennesen



"This school has given me a lot of opportunities that I wouldn't have had if I had been anywhere else. In high school I had teachers who really helped me feel comfortable in my own skin and seek out a purpose. I am still incredibly grateful for that. I think that being able to come back and be that person for somebody else, and help people find what their true passions are, is a cool opportunity that I have been given. This is a place that seeks to make a difference beyond the walls of this school. The impact of Columbine goes far beyond just what happens in our building. I think that we don't think about that often enough, just what we have the capability to do and what we have done. The impact that we've made, not just in Colorado, but on a global scale, is really cool to see." -Mr. Garkow



"I came back to work here after being a student because, unfortunately, I was here when everything happened, and when that happened I could feel the immense support of the community and I felt like I wanted to give back to the community that wrapped its arms around us, and that showed us what love and support really is. I love our school because of its resilience!" -Ms. Sudano

Special Instructions

Special Instructions