



SECOND QUARTER

Curriculum Spotlight

SPRING 2024

A VISITOR TO MR. BILBERRY'S SCIENCE LAB would witness a lively classroom with students working independently and in groups, collaborating on applying what they've learned in school all week: building rockets. The students are upbeat; their respect and genuine appreciation towards Mr. Bilberry reflects his work in building purposeful relationships with each of them.

'Integrated Science' at Hanna Academy combines physical science and biology. This quarter, the students are learning about different forms of energy, electricity, and creating simple circuits. They'll be determining the potential and kinetic energy of their rockets and building ignition systems that will send the projectiles up. At the end of the quarter, they'll launch the missiles and connect all the dots.

Bilberry's motto has always been, 'If I'm not having fun in class, neither are the students.' He integrates exciting facts, videos, and games to optimize interest and engagement leading up to that day's lesson, breaking the time out into short, connected activities. Encouraging participation is always a goal "because the students feel good when they can demonstrate some knowledge."

"Recently, a new student had her head down on her desk for three classes in a row," says Bilberry. "On day four, her head was up. I went to the whiteboard to write out a problem and asked her if she would write it out for me. She got up and wrote out the entire problem. That was a win because I could engage her, and she participated."

When another student did poorly on a recent test, Bilberry asked to review his answers with him. "I know he knew the material. I learned that he didn't understand the questions as they were asked. When I could clarify the information that each question was looking for, he demonstrated the knowledge I knew he had. That's what is so great about smaller classes; we can get to know the students and spend one-on-one time with them."

Bilberry has been teaching at Hanna for 22 years and is one of the many long-term faculty members who have taught at the school. Throughout the years, he's learned a few principles for success. One, never take anything personally. Two, whatever respect that is given is returned. Three, show compassion and have clear boundaries.



Ron Bilberry
CTE LEAD AND
INSTRUCTOR



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