

Extra Mile Award Javier Fernandez nominated by Haley Rose

Mr. Fernandez consistently impresses me with his ability to go above and beyond in order to help his students succeed. Besides being a human history textbook who can answer anyone of my questions without a moment of hesitation, Mr. Fernandez is also so compassionate and understanding. Every morning at 7:30 he is ready at tutorial, prepared to give mini lectures about any unit you're struggling with. When we sit down at night to do our daily reading guides and have to send him an email about confusions we have, he is guaranteed to respond within the next hour, no matter what time it is. Sometimes I wonder if he actually sleeps. Finally, if we still need help, he will take it upon himself to send us additional resources to use. No teacher that I've had has ever been as dedicated as he is to helping me get good grades while simultaneously ensuring that I enjoy the class.

In addition to being very helpful, Mr. Fernandez is also super reasonable. He understands what it's like to be in high school, and unlike some of the other professors I've had, he acknowledges that we also have to manage the work of six other classes on top of extra-curriculars. One night, when I had cross country and soccer practice, and then had to sit down to study for two tests the next day, Mr. Fernandez kindly permitted me to turn in his homework for the day the following weekend. I greatly appreciated this. To help you grasp the significance of this action, submitting the homework in his class on time directly affects our effort grade as well as our ability to retake the exams at the end of the units.

Mr. Fernandez also happens to be the only teacher I've had this year who has given us a study day; an entire class period to catch up on the work of any subject and/or review for upcoming tests. On these days, it is so nice to take a break from some of the stress and know that you won't have to stay up until half past midnight doing homework.

However, best of all, Mr. Fernandez has an incredible personality. For those of you who didn't see the high school's production of Grease, Mr. Fernandez has a really good voice. He sings to us from time to time, and loves to put on 70's music (or the music from the decade we're learning about) while we work. He's super friendly and excited about teaching, but in the way that makes you smile and want to learn, not knock yourself out with a textbook. He also has a spew of fun facts to tell us; for instance, how many of you knew that his dad was captured in the Bay of Bigs Invasion or that he himself went to Columbia for college (though no real surprise there).

If I were to choose a few words that encapsulate Mr. Fernandez, I would chose kind, selfless, funny, passionate, humble, and brilliant. He's a genius and a great natured person who I'm going to miss so much next year. He's the definition of someone who was truly meant to teach, and anyone who has him as a student will realize how fortunate they are broaden their academic horizons under him. Mr. Fernandez deserves this award and many more, because I really cannot describe in words how much he has taught me this year, both about history and life.