

Legend of Learning -September 2023 - David Amidon



Dear LaFayette Students and Staff:

Congratulations to Mr. David Amidon, who was selected as the September 2023 Legend of Learning! Dave is a Science Teacher who has served LaFayette students for the past two decades. Dave recently transferred from the LaFayette Jr/Sr High School to the Onondaga Nation School where he will teach Jr. High Science and Biology starting the fall of 2023.

Individuals who nominated Dave shared the following:

Nomination #1:

This staff member treats people the way they ought to be, like they have a brain. He is a dedicated teacher and mentor, he never gives up and is an enthusiastic person, and even though he has a tough personality he really wants what is best for students. Overall he is a caring person that will not give up on someone even when other people think they are too far gone.

Nomination #2:

The Legend of Learning Award should have David Amidon's name on it. He has been a science teacher at LaFayette since 1999, teaching Science 8, Earth Science, Biology, and non-Regents Chemistry during his career. He has been on 8th grade teams for years, showing how valuable a team concept is at the junior high school level. During that time, the team took field trips to the Herkimer Diamond Mines, Washington D.C., and Philadelphia. Also, the 8th graders enjoyed a cross-curricular full day of activities for "War and Remembrance Day." Dave has also served as the 8th grade class advisor, helping to provide our junior high students with many opportunities outside of the classroom. These included, but were not limited to, movies, professional theater, sledding at 4-Seasons, bowling, Fun Nites at school, Halloween Dances/Haunted House, the Adirondack Museum and class trips to various amusement parks. He completed his CAS degree in 2009 and served as an intern. He has been on innumerable school and district committees. His involvement in numerous co-curricular activities include Varsity Golf, Modified Boys Basketball, the Science Olympiad, ECOS, and National Junior Honor Society. He was a teacher for the 21st Century Grant Program, "Project Challenge," which really allowed him to showcase his talents in unique ways. LaFayette, Tully and SUNY Cortland partnered in this venture and it was science at its most engaging for grades 3-8. Mr. Amidon even ventured to the roof of Tully High School to demonstrate the efficacy in an egg drop design. He became a New York State Master Teacher in 2014. His summers have included time spent becoming an NCSE Ambassador, NOAA Teacher at Sea, EPA Presidential Award, and the NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador. Our students have all seen him in his blue NASA jumpsuit! The love of science he has fostered in our students during his tenure at LaFayette is unparalleled. I can't think of anyone more deserving of this award than Dave Amidon. His enthusiasm for, and knowledge of, his subject matter is second to none. He is a problem-solver, a team player, and an asset to LaFayette that needs to be recognized. Thank you for your consideration of this nomination.

Dave- Thank you for your continued commitment to excellence!

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- Help to advance the mission and vision of the district
- Go above and beyond
- Demonstrate that they put our students first
- Support student learning
- Treat students and others with dignity, respect, and compassion
- Embrace creativity and innovation

Nominate a staff member today through an online survey which is available on our [website](#).