



Meet Our Teachers: Richard Cochran '91

Richard Cochran teaches junior and senior English as well as the “Themes in Literature” elective. Because of Richard’s outstanding credentials, students in his Themes class receive college credit for the course. Also an assistant football coach for the Rockets, Richard has been at Catholic High for 23 years. He has a BA in English from Wittenberg University in Ohio and a Master’s in English from UCA.

“I was working in the corporate world right out of college in Columbus, Ohio. I came home from work one evening, and one of my roommates said some old man left a message for me on our answering machine. I listened to it: ‘Richard, this is Father Tribou. Give me a call when you have a moment.’

I haven’t talked to Father in 5 years -- not since I was a senior in high school. I immediately thought things like, ‘Did I break something at the school that they just found out about? Did he review my file and find out I actually missed some credits and never graduated? Did he accidentally call the wrong person? Did I have any leftover D-hall hours that he wanted me to make up? Why would he call me?’

I immediately felt like a little kid again. I called him that evening, thinking I could leave a voicemail with the office. He answered right away. I imagined him never sleeping anyway, so I wasn’t surprised. ‘Richard, your father dropped off a resume that says you’re certified to teach English. I’m wondering if you’re interested in coming back here to interview for the job.’ I never had any intention of returning to Arkansas, not that I didn’t love my home state. I was still in wanderlust mode, but the command in his voice gave me the feeling I was being called.

So, without really thinking about, I said, ‘Yes, sir. When?’ ‘Right away,’ he replied. I caught a plane the next morning. My interview the day after was to teach a couple of classes. Next thing I know, I’m hired. The whole thing happened without really weighing any pros or cons. I just moved. Like I said, it was a calling, just like when the seniors sing, ‘Here I am, Lord,’ during their ring mass every year. I answered a call, and I’ve never regretted this vocation. Twenty-three years later, I feel like I’m still starting out. Therefore, thank you, Catholic High, for this wonderful opportunity to teach these young men in the classroom and on the field.”

Get to know Coach Cochran:

I'm proudest of: Being a husband, father and teacher every day.

If I've learned one thing in life, it's that: No scars, no life: Be a man of quality, not quantity.

My guilty pleasure is: Watching too much football.

My favorite movie is: Breakfast Club.

The last book I read and enjoyed was: Re-reading *The Hobbit*, *The Lord of the Rings* and *The Silmarillion* by Tolkien all together after 30 years.

My favorite meal is: Sweet and sour chicken.

One day, I want to: Visit the Lake District in Wales and see first-hand the inspiration to Wordsworth's poetry.

The best thing about teaching is: Every so often the ENTIRE class is engaged in the topic. I can feel them growing up, contemplating, just for a fleeting moment.

Advice I would give a student: Remember, hard work is what gives something its value. It's hard to respect something that's won too easily.

Sum up in a few words why Catholic High is a great place to work: Because I have grown as a person over the years, and I have joy in what I do. CHS reinforces that joy at work and enables me to challenge myself and others. It is a strong family of faculty members who care for one another very much.

Why Catholic High? I have been called to teach, and this school recognizes and nurtures that call. It takes such vocations very seriously.

Outside of teaching and family, the accomplishment I'm most proud of is: Being the only Master's candidate in English to pass the comprehensive finals for that year. I had to study for it while teaching full-time and coaching football during the season. We candidates were given only two attempts, eight months apart, and I passed on the first try.

Father Tribou told us young teachers that teenagers are delayed time-bombs. What we teach them today will open up their minds later when they're ready. Even if the material is too deep in meaning for some, that material will settle to the bottom and will well up to the surface when the time is right. I guess it was his way of telling us to forge ahead and never stop teaching sincerely.



Meet our Teachers: Coach Chip Reeves

Coach Chip Reeves teaches sophomore Health and Physical Education — PE (aka Crossfit class). An assistant football coach for the Rockets, Chip has been at Catholic High for four years. He has a BSE in Physical Education from Henderson State University and a Master's in Educational Leadership from Harding University.

Chip grew up in Houston, Texas, and moved to Murphreesboro when he was 9 years old. Before coming to Catholic High, he taught Health and PE at Malvern High School for 10 years and was an assistant football and baseball coach. Catholic High always appealed to Chip because of its prestige and uniqueness. He says the traditions, discipline and brotherhood are like no other place he's been a part of.

Coach Tim Ezzi '72 mentored Chip when he first arrived at Catholic High. Chip might have been a little "soft" in PE class, and Coach Ezzi told him to challenge the boys more. Coach Reeves' PE class is now known as a 50-minute Crossfit class — a rite of passage that challenges the boys to finish. Boys who can't run a mile when they begin the class in August but can in December know that they have achieved a goal when they finish Coach Reeves' class.

Get to know Coach Reeves:

I'm proudest of: My family — wife Kitty, son Harrison, and two daughters Kensey and Addison.

The best advice I've ever gotten is: If you put your mind to it, you can accomplish anything.

If I've learned one thing in life, it's that: Relationships matter the most.

My guilty pleasure is: Chocolate chip cookies.

My favorite meal is: Surf and turf (filet and lobster)

But, I would never eat: Cucumbers.

The best thing about teaching is: Seeing the growth of students setting and reaching their goals.

Advice I would give a student is: Don't take anything for granted; do your best every day.

Sum up in a few words why Catholic High is a great place to work: The faculty and staff are the best I've ever been around. They care and support each other to ensure the students here get the very best.

What did you want to be when you were little? A professional athlete.

Outside of teaching and family, the accomplishment I am most proud of: Lettered 4 years at Henderson State University in football.

Someone once told me: Don't count your chickens before they hatch.

A place I love: Being on the lake.

I want to someday: Buy a motorhome and travel the U.S. with my family.