



TRANSCRIPT

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Title: 2020 OC Teacher of the Year – Gavin Ehlers

- Everybody hears about Mr. Ehlers, you might not have him but you definitely know who he is and you know like how he's influence other lives.

- [Art Brown] He's not a teacher that you take the class and you never want to see him again. You want to be in his class because of what he does.

- [Michael] His charisma is what makes us like the subject and want to do it. The reason why we like it is because he he loves it so much. And so we're inspired by that passion.

- [Shannon Marcin] He's hilarious, he's fun, he's extremely intelligent, and he just captivates their attention. He's a great storyteller and he just makes a lot of very difficult material easy to understand and fun to learn about.

- [Gavin Ehlers] Yeah we had Ecoli, that's what we worked with. We got the good. I don't know if it's a weird beard or weird hair or one way or the other. So I originally had these plans of going into genetics and becoming a genetic researcher. As much as I was fascinated by the work there was just part of me that missed the social component of it. I met with a counselor, they said, "Have you ever thought about getting into the teaching profession?" I thought, "Well there that I always ignored that voice but maybe that's actually what I should be doing. You did an awesome job, man. I mean that's incredible.

- [Art Brown] He teaches regular biology to freshmen and those freshmen that get in his class want to take probably AP bio down the road.

- [Gavin Ehlers] I kind of operate on the controlled chaos, sort of things where we somewhat fly by the seat of our pants but with a method to the madness and at the end of the day we get done what we need to get done, and the fact that we can do that while we laugh is, you know you can get kids to remember things by making them laugh or by making them scared and I prefer the first option a whole lot, a lot more. Get a chunk. I know there's a chunk. Oh, it is chunky peanut butter. That is helpful I got a chunk.

- [Student] Get 10 times more than that.

- [Gavin Ehlers] 10 times more than that. Okay, so that's one...

- [Student] In one scoop!

- [Gavin Ehlers] Two...

- [Kailan] There are a few things that we did in his class that I will remember forever. One of them being fighting for points back.

- [Gavin Ehlers] After an exam or after a quiz, they have the opportunity to express why they put a particular answer.

- [Tatum] So for number nine, couldn't it also be a learned behavior?

- [Gavin Ehlers] Okay, so Tatum says learned behavior-- the question I would have for you Tatum-- Amy you want to back her up on that?
- [Amy] Couldn't it be a fixed action pattern because we learned--
- [Kailan] What it means to me to have a teacher allow us to fight for points back is that he genuinely cares about our opinions and he genuinely cares about how we think critically.
- [Gavin Ehlers] Even if it's an end of the unit test that that's not a point of finality for learning because one of the things that I really want to stress is that you can't be afraid of failure and when we make mistakes the key is how do we get back up from them. I can see how there is kind of a misconception there that that you guys have proper understanding of those concepts, so for that one, we can get that one back will give you guys a plus two.
- [Spencer] He always made me feel like I was more than a grade because he also cared about the students well beings.
- [Gavin Ehler] To me is safe space is, it starts first and foremost with them feeling like they're in a place where they're respected.
- [Kailan] The way that it feels what an adult, and a teacher especially gives us that type of support is beyond explanation.
- [Glenn Peach] You know even, not just the students but I think admin looks to him when they need to make some decision about the direction the campus is going, just because they know he has his kind of finger on the pulse. He's both a colleague that you enjoy seeing at work every day because he's one of your good friends, but he's also somebody that you could go to for advice.
- [Janine Ehlers] I'm just really proud of what he's accomplished.
- [Byron Ehlers] And what really makes you proud is how his students seem to react to his teaching.
- [Gavin Ehlers] If there's one thing that I would hope that students would take from my class, I would hope that that they would be inspired to find something for their future self that they can be as passionate about as what I've been able to experience in these 12 years and what I know I'm going to get to experience in the next however many years that I get to continue doing this.
- [Michael] He inspires me every single day to work hard and to really think about the reason why I do things.
- [Jenna] Thank you so much for being such a great teacher You really made my life in high school lot easier knowing that I had a teacher that was there for me. So thank you.
- [Gavin Ehlers] I caught none!

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