

Watchung Hills Regional High School

Hall of Fame



Stephen Bartlett
Educator

High school halls of fame are different from many other halls of fame. Most halls honor individuals who have excelled in one specific area. The Watchung Hills Hall of Fame gets to recognize alumni, faculty and community members who excelled in many different areas. In Stephen Bartlett, WHRHS is recognizing a passionate and talented educator.

In 1962, Stephen started his teaching career at WHRHS after four years in the military and after obtaining a bachelor's degree from Lafayette College in Easton, PA. It was during his years at Lafayette that Steve discovered a deep interest for history. That passion translated into a desire to teach history and share his passion with his students.

Stephen quickly advanced to the department supervisor of social studies at WHRHS in 1974, but the desire to pursue an advanced degree was tugging at him. He left Watchung Hills to pursue an advanced degree at Clark University in Massachusetts. When it was time for Stephen to resume teaching, he returned to WHRHS, a place that seemed to be a magnet for him. Steve returned as department supervisor and was the leader in connecting WHRHS with the National Honor Society and the Model United Nations Organization. It was the latter connection that enticed Steve to move his family to the Netherlands, where he taught for several years.

His subsequent teaching career included many venues in the US, as well as several years in Kobe, Japan. Steve was ahead of his time in understanding the importance of a "global perspective" in terms of education. But the strong attraction of Watchung Hills once again brought him back as the Supervisor of Social Studies for a third time in 2001.

Stephen is recognized not only for his global experience of teaching, but also for the fact that he had the ability to find the learning catalyst in each of his students. Stephen was able to trigger a desire for ongoing learning, a life-long experience of learning.

Although Steve left us all too soon in his passing earlier this year, we are all the better for having known him, worked with him and learned from him. We are honored to induct Steve into the WHRHS Hall of Fame posthumously.