

Class Acts: A Q&A with Paul Gose

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Cindy Benham nominated Paul Gose (pronounced gos-ee) for Class Acts. Gose is the only teacher for Billy Joe Dickens Continuation High School and runs a "one-room schoolhouse." Benham also runs remediation classes for the high school exit exam and heads the Protect Health and Slam Tobacco club. Gose can get even the most uninspired student to blossom and work toward their goals, Benham said.

Name: Paul Gose

Age: 41



Modesto Bee - ALISON YIN/ayin@modbee.com Paul Gose, 41, of Hughson, works at Bill Joe Dickens Continuation High School and is being profiled as a Class Act. He stands for a photo in the Bee studio in Modesto, Calif., Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009.

City of residence: Hughson

Occupation: Head teacher, B.J. Dickens Continuation High School

Family: Wife, Autumn, three children, ages 7 to 19

Education background: Bachelor's degree from Valparaiso University; teaching credential from Chapman University; master's degree from Grand Canyon University

Teaching experience: One year of fourth grade at Grace Lutheran School; two years at Ustach Middle School teaching English and history; four years at Riverbank High School teaching P.E. and biology; and the past 10 years at my current assignment

Why did you get into teaching? I was fortunate enough to have great parents, teachers and coaches that I wanted to emulate.

What is the most challenging part of your job? Teaching many subjects to several grade levels; it's tough exploring the depth of subjects.

What is the most important lesson you've learned? Don't judge wealth by the money in your pocket. I love my job and co-workers. I have a wonderful family and great friends.

What is your favorite teaching tool or activity? We laugh a bunch in class. Starting the day off right with greeting every student helps all lessons. The Smartboard is nice, too.

What's next in your classroom? The next couple of weeks will be devoted to the U.S. Constitution in all our history classes.

What advice do you have for students? Set goals and work toward them. Recognize good people and seek advice from them.

What advice do you have for parents? Provide clear boundaries, be involved and be consistent.

What will it take to improve academic success in the valley? Great question! When you find the answer, please press "send to all!"

How do you try to reach students not interested in school? Be what we ask of students: a good communicator. Talk about what interests them and build from there. Invest!

What one area should schools put more emphasis on? Modeling and teaching good character opens so many doors to learning.

What are your future plans? We would like to expand our school garden and greenhouse activities. I also teach computer-based courses and summer courses at Fresno Pacific University. You know — idle hands ...