

Michael Wertz

7th Grade Health Science

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I'm joining the BCMA staff as a science teacher after 21 years as a biology teacher with the South Texas High School for Health Professions, a magnet school in the South Texas Independent School District magnet system where I introduced, designed and taught Advanced Placement Biology, and Advanced Placement Environmental Science as well as Senior Anatomy and Physiology. I've taught Pre- AP Biology and advanced biology in public and private school settings as diverse as Pennsylvania, Maryland, and Texas as well as overseas. I am a national training consultant with the National Math and Science Initiative, training biology teachers in instructional best practices to meet the rigors of the National Core Curriculum.

In addition to my work as a NMSI trainer, I also served as a mentor for Pre-AP biology teachers who are using the NMSI Curriculum, and perform Advanced Placement Environmental Science test review prep sessions at district wide review events from Dallas to the Rio Grande Valley as well as out of state. Prior to my service in Texas I taught biology in one of the first integrated schools in Cape Town South Africa as well as taught in a Cape Town township setting, preparing senior students for the Cape Senior Certificate matriculation examinations. I'm a graduate of Lock Haven University of Pennsylvania, part of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's state university system with a B.S.Ed in Secondary Education - Biology. I'm past president of the Rio Grande Valley Science Association, a National Science Teachers Association affiliate which promotes peer to peer science teacher professional development.

My interests outside the classroom are with environmental causes: I'm past secretary of the Lower Rio Grande Valley Group of the Lone Star Chapter of the Sierra Club where sea turtle, native bird, and ocelot habitat preservation issues were addressed, as well as past board member of the Rio Grande Valley Nature Center. I've led or co-led several bird watching field trips to southern Africa and have traveled extensively in Mexico and Spain. I'm currently a member of the Houston Arboretum and Nature Center.