

The Kindness In Room 314

By: Katelyn Rieder

The staff here at Oak Hills High School always works extremely hard to provide a safe and pleasant learning experience for students. Miss Brassfield, a math teacher here, is a prime example of this.



A Passion for Teaching

Brassfield has been a teacher for ten years, specializing in math. She also attended Oak Hills during her teenage years. She actually had some of the teachers that are still employed here, including Mr. Taylor, Mr. Klotz, and Senora Bucher.

Her passion for teaching started when she tutored someone for National Honor Society, and they had a “lightbulb moment” of understanding the topic, “It was the coolest feeling ever,” said Brassfield.

Many students (including myself) are proud to say that Miss Brassfield is one of their favorite teachers. When asked what her favorite part of teaching is, she instantly replied, “Building relationships with the students.” However, these relationships are not always positive. She has come across many disrespectful students in her time. With all the current technology we have, information has never been more accessible. This has been a blessing and a curse to all teachers, “Some of [the students] don’t want to think anymore,” said Brassfield.

No matter how many “bad” students she comes across, teaching is a dream job for her. When asked if she would still teach if she won the lottery, she immediately nodded her head in agreement.

Spreading Love

One of the main legacies Brassfield has left on Oak Hills is being an advisor for the newly founded Hope Squad. Alongside her, Mrs. Murphy, Mr. Groh, Mr. Murray, Mr. Meibers, and Mr. Hunt all play instrumental parts in the organization. When asked what the main goal of Hope Squad was, Brassfield said, “Suicide prevention. The kids [in Hope Squad] are supposed to be like a sounding board. They’re supposed to see kids and sense that something’s not right and refer them to an advisor, like myself, to get them the help that they need.” By being an advisor, Brassfield not only helps that students in her class, but students in the whole school.

Hope Squad holds meetings about once a month during seventh bell. During these interviews, the members receive something called QPR Training, which stands for question, persuade, and refer, “so they know how to question a kid, persuade them to get help, and refer them to a counselor.” After this lesson, the members do some fun activities to help others. One of the most well known was their positive messages displayed on mirrors and post-it notes around the school. However, the students and staff have done a lot more good that isn’t so obvious to the student body, “we made Christmas cards for kids in the Mental Health department of Children’s Hospital.” These simple acts of kindness that the club does work to put a smile and just one person’s face. To them, that makes all the hard work worth it.

By playing this role in such an important operation, Miss Brassfield is doing absolutely everything in her power to make sure that every student that she comes across is happy and healthy. To her, teaching is much more than just teaching a subject, it's about teaching life skills and self love.

The Bustling Home

Miss Brassfield's school and home life are two very different things. Here at school, she is always put together and proper. At home, however, she is out at her barn, taking care of her various animals.

If you have the luxury of having Brassfield as a teacher, you know that coming to her various goats and dogs are her favorite parts of the day. As of right now, Brassfield has “two dogs, two cats, one pony, five goats (with one or two on the way), and seven chickens.”

Of course, she would never pick favorites. But if she were to, her goat, Dasher (pictured on the right), would be it, “I bottle fed him when he was a baby so that is “mama's boy.””

Coming from personal experience, Miss Brassfield is one of the sweetest, most genuine people I have ever had the pleasure of meeting, and I'm sure that any one of her students would agree.

