

John C. Kent '76 Teaching Scholarship Application 2021/2022

John C. Kent, Jr. '76 taught at Greater Lowell Technical High School for 22 years and Westford Academy for 5 years. His friends, family and colleagues describe him as an extraordinary teacher with a true passion for his work. To his core he was a teacher in the classroom, in the community, and at home with his son and daughter.

A scholarship will be awarded in his memory to students who aspire to follow in John's footsteps and join the teaching profession. Rising juniors are eligible for a \$25,000 award for one year with the possibility of an additional \$25,000 in the senior year. Financial need will not be considered in the selection process.

A committee will review applications and finalists will be invited to participate in virtual interviews. Awards will be made through Student Financial Services and will be handled in parallel with other financial aid awards (if applicable). Recipients will write a letter of thanks to benefactors Diane and Joe Bonica '74 and may meet with them during the year.

~ John C. Kent ~

From his daughter, Elizabeth Kent '09:

"Listening to him speak about teaching and his students every night around the dinner table, I can say with certainty that he was a creative instructor who designed activities and presentations that used multimedia and artistry that encouraged all of his students to participate; he was passionate about education and encouraging success for every student; he engaged with every student personally no matter their ability or background; and believed that they should strive for greatness and find their voice. He listened to all of his students and my family heard how much that meant to them during my father's wake. My father worked tirelessly for his students because he believed in them."

Excerpt from a letter of recommendation from a past supervisor, William Burns:

"John works diligently every day with economically and educationally disadvantaged students and is able to get them to realize their potential... John is a dedicated, intelligent, and patient teacher. He is able to gain his students' trust and cooperation through an engaging curriculum and through meaningful outreach in the community. I have seen John take a student who was on the verge of dropping out of school and build this student into a two time Boston Globe Gold Key winner who will be attending art school in the fall. He works equally hard with all students regardless of their ability level. John's secret is that he loves his students and teaching."

Excerpt from John Kent's "Philosophy of Education" submitted with his 1997 application for Teacher of the Year in Massachusetts that summarizes his beliefs, in his own words:

"In order for students to succeed, I believe that I must communicate powerfully my enthusiasm for art and design. I have to do much more than just pass out materials and step back. The teacher must show the way. I must stimulate tired imaginations even if it means coming to class dressed like Claude Monet. I must instill in them a sense of craftsmanship, even if it means not accepting less than their best efforts..."

At times when our students frustrate us most, I have heard some teachers say, "Well, you can't save them all." But I wouldn't be in this business if I believed that. Despite some of my students' difficult backgrounds, I try to reach them all. I know that I can give them an opportunity to demonstrate to themselves and others that they can achieve great things. I believe what Tracy Kidder wrote in Among School Children, "But for children who are used to thinking of themselves as stupid or not worth talking to... a good teacher can provide an astonishing revelation. A good teacher can give a child at least a chance to feel, 'He thinks I'm worth something. Maybe I am.'"

What do these attributes look like in you? If you were selected to receive the John C. Kent '76 Teaching Scholarship, how would his values be reflected in your work as an educator? Site specific examples of your experience. Please do not include issues of financial need.

**Due by Wednesday, March 10 at 4:00 PM to Lori Harris
lharris@stonehill.edu**

SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING:

- 1. Application/Essay.** Typed essay should be no more than two pages.
 - Type your NAME on each page*****
- 2. Current Resume.** Please consult with **Career Development Center.**
 - Include your cell phone number