

What the critics are saying about Jay D'Ambrosio

In my fifteen years as an educator, I have yet to meet a teacher with as much talent, creativity and commitment to children as Jay.

Tracy Vitale, Assistant Superintendent, Seneca Valley School District

Jay is not only a teacher of students, he is a teacher of teachers.

Denise Chappell, Former Assistant Superintendent, Seneca Valley School District

Mr. D'Ambrosio has created a nurturing, educationally-focused environment where students participate and make real-world connections.

Sean McCarty, Principal, Seneca Valley Middle School

Jay is a powerful writer who understands the psyche of adolescence.

Elaine Ashton, Guidance Counselor, Seneca Valley Middle School

You will quickly appreciate his intelligent insight and wisdom.

Gary Solomon, MPH, M.S.W., Ph.D., and author of *Cinemaparenting*, *The Motion Picture Prescription*, *Reel Therapy* and *A Psychiatric Diagnostic Primer*

Finally, a mythic guide to the first great initiatory journey. Joseph Campbell showed us the pattern, now Jay D'Ambrosio applies it to adolescence.

Jonathan Young, Ph.D., Contributor to *The History Channel*, psychologist and founding curator of the Joseph Campbell Archives

Jay D' Ambrosio clearly understands the needs and challenges of adolescents.

Birgit Wolz, Ph.D., author of *Emotion Picture Magic: A Movie Lover's Guide to Healing and Transformation* and www.cinematherapy.com

He has skillfully woven the use of myths, stories, movies, and song into practical approaches for adult role models to connect with 'young people at the level of the heart.'

John H. Stephens, Ph.D., chairman of the Education Department, Grove City College, Grove City, Pa.

What a dramatic change I have seen in my daughter's interest in learning History.

I've been listening to her sharing of history lessons every day since the beginning of the school term, which was something seldom found last year.

When my daughter brought her test paper back last Friday, I was thankful and at the same time found amazed of how a teacher could be so influential and stimulating to students whom then would automatically be driven to learn ... even something out of the syllabus but just highlight for interest, that she likes to dig into.

It must be the teacher who acts as a live teaching aid from the planning of the scheme of work, tailor-making the exercises to even the picking of examples to share with students as well as the pausing of them at a climax.

A good teacher affects a student in all aspects, not only academically but their attitudes towards life. It is sometimes through 'minor' behaviours like saying the pledge in the morning or greeting students with names outside rooms. You are moulding students and telling them what to do and how to behave at different times.

As we are new immigrants from Hong Kong last year, we are specially impressed by your way of teaching. There is no doubt why you are put with this reputation "not only teacher of students but teacher of teachers"
It is very true.

Thank you very much.

Parent Comment

My husband and I wanted to take the time, as the end of the first nine weeks comes to a close, to personally thank you for all you do for our son. It seems to us that in the craziness of life, most don't ever take the time to properly thank those special teachers who seem to make a difference in the life of a child. Our son speaks so highly of you and the stories that he shares with us from class speak worlds about you. As you probably have discovered he is a unique individual, with a heart of gold and a passion for the arts and history. He loves to sit at the dinner table in the evening and fill us in on all of the history happenings of the day! (We are so ready for Thanksgiving in this house, I know more about the history of the day then ever before!!!) Basically, we just wanted to thank you for sparking and sharing a love of History, for making our son so interested in the information you are teaching, and for allowing him to continue to be the person he is, without restricting him because of a label, We feel very fortunate that HTSD has a teacher like you and even more fortunate that our son is able to call you his History teacher. So.....THANKS!

Parent Comment

I wanted to let you know how much my daughter enjoyed your class this year. She really learned a lot from you and enjoyed you as a teacher. I was impressed with your presentation at open house at the beginning of the year, and felt that you would probably be one of her favorite teachers, and I was correct. Thanks for making history exciting for her this year!

Parent Comment

First of all, I would like to thank you for being such a wonderful teacher. My daughter would come home every day and tell me about your class and what an interesting and informative teacher you are. She often said you "make learning fun" and she so looked forward to going to your class.

Parent Comment

I just wanted to thank you for letting me sit in on your fascinating session on Monday regarding the brain and power point presentations. It was an excellent presentation, and I learned quite a bit!! It is quite evident that you enjoy what you do, and we are so lucky to have you as part of our district. Thank you so much for all you do for our students!

School Board Member Comment

I just wanted to take the time to let you know that my son is thoroughly enjoying your class. Basically, he is a child who isn't all that fond of school and the whole learning process and I just wanted to say kudos to you for making a subject so interesting. He looks forward to History class and he loves your style of teaching. Too many times as parents we find ourselves sending e-mails when there are problems, and this feels good just saying Thanks for making learning fun.

Parent Comment

I credit my daughter's success in your class to the high interest she has. I think when she studies; it ends up being a review of what she remembers from class. It is wonderful, and refreshing to know that someone is holding her interest, and that is obviously a credit to you. Thank you for doing such a great job!

Parent Comment

I just wanted to send a brief note of thanks to you. My wife and I could not attend the Middle School open house so we missed our first opportunity to meet you. However, we have heard your name several times over these first few weeks of the school year!

Our children are in your 8th grade history class this year. They have been coming home almost every evening with some type of interesting story about what they heard, learned or did during history class that day. They both truly enjoy and look forward to your class every day.

For two kids, who genuinely hated history class before, to truly now enjoy and look forward to history class - well, that is an amazing turnaround. Looks like we can pinpoint you, your classroom enthusiasm and your teaching style as the primary reason for this change of opinion on their part.

Thanks for bringing a fresh and exciting approach to history class for our children. We look forward to them bringing home more exciting stories from history class over the next nine months.

Parent Comment

Good Morning Mr. D'Ambrosio,

I have been meaning to send you this note for quite sometime now. So here we are at the end of the year, nothing like last minute.

First I would like to congratulate you on receiving the PBS award. I was in the audience last night I wanted to congratulate you in person but someone else stopped me and then I lost you.

I also would like to thank you for the way you have enlightened my daughter. She speaks very highly of you. Loves your class and especially the way you teach. You have really excited her about a subject that was never on the top of her list.

I want to share a story with you. Last week my son (5th grade)came home with the assignment of dressing and telling about a person who made a impact during the Revolutionary War.

My daughter immediately wanted to help him with his assignment. Which I worry was some type of payback to get him a failing grade. I was wrong. She told him, from memory, all about Dr. Joseph Warren.

We all learned a lot and he got a A.

My point is that you are a really great teacher that has found a way to not only teach but to get your students retain the knowledge and get excited about learning more.

Thank you!

Parent Comment

Hi Mr. D'Ambrosio,

I just wanted to let you know how much my son truly enjoyed your class this year and how much of a positive impact you had on him!

He would tell me all of the exciting things that you did in class to make it interesting and fun and he looked forward to your class daily. He even told me he liked taking tests in your class!!

He really learned a lot and is always mentioning things that he learned about wars, battles, presidents and generals. He has become fascinated with history!

He is telling me he wants to "do something" with history because of you and your class.

It just goes to show you how a teacher can really have a positive influence on a child!!

He told me that whenever he would see you in the halls even if it was 5 times a day that you would always wave and with a smile on your face say hi to him. He always told me this with a big grin on his face! He absolutely loved you as a teacher and a person!

You showed him respect and kindness and made him feel important and I just wanted to thank you for being such a positive role model for him.

Thank you for making his 8Th grade year so special and so memorable!

Parent Comment