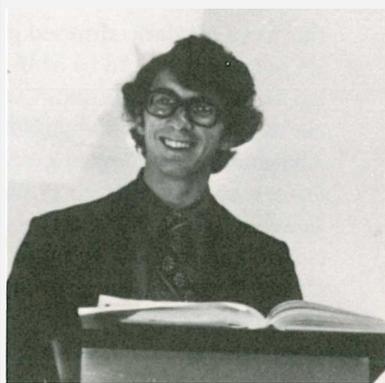


# Alumni Echo

News and updates from Belleville Mennonite School - March 2022



Teacher: an educator; a person who helps students to acquire knowledge, competence or virtue.



Mr. Leon Miller began his teaching career at BMS in the fall of 1973. Over the next 30 years, Leon taught a wide variety of courses to students and served in several administrative positions. His primary certification and focus was Math at the high school and middle school level, however, he also instructed Physics, Social Studies, Geography, Music, Spanish, Accounting, and directed the choir for a time. In addition, he recalls one year when he even taught 2nd grade Math! "I changed roles so often that I never got tired of teaching."

Although there are many fond memories from his years of teaching, Leon admits "You sometimes question, 'Did I make a difference?' One of the biggest joys is to have former students come back and tell you how much they appreciate what you taught or the time you invested in helping them understand a difficult concept." Leon recalls the powerful encouragement it was to hear from a student whom he tutored through high school math report back, "Mr. Miller, I passed Calculus in college! I never thought I could do it. Thank you!"

We are indeed grateful for our faithful teachers who, like Mr. Miller, have dedicated their lives to imparting knowledge—and wisdom to generations of students here at BMS!

**Help us spread the word about the opening at BMS for a High School Science Teacher!** We are looking for a passionate and highly qualified individual for the High School Science teaching position. Applicants must have a strong Christian foundation, communication skills, solid teaching ability, eagerness to differentiate instruction to meet diverse learning needs, and a willingness to collaborate with colleagues. Secondary science teaching certificate is desired. Specialization in the Sciences and prior teaching experience is required.

[www.bmsprek12.org/about/employment.cfm](http://www.bmsprek12.org/about/employment.cfm)

This is the very first year  
For this man to teach us here.  
He is not big lengthwise,  
But more the medium size,  
You can't call him fat or lean,  
He is sort of in between.  
Some teachers you can tell  
When they aren't feeling well,  
Or they've had a lousy day  
So a lecture is on the way;  
But this man I haven't heard  
Yell or scream an angry word.  
He teaches physics to a class  
of small size  
Which tries to learn and memorize  
All the many different equations  
For work and heat and torque and motion.

One of the poems written by Teena (Werner) Gehman for the 1974 yearbook: Mr. Leon Miller



Dr. Ron David, who taught at BMS from 1957-1959, was recently featured in an EMU news posting. Several BMS alumni

shared the following memories of their time with Mr. David:

*“Dr. Ron David was my European history teacher during my senior year. He was an interesting and most helpful teacher.”*

- Lee Yoder, class of 1958

*“I remember well his interest in me as a person making decisions about my future career and choices in life.”*

- Beryl Brubaker, class of 1960

*“I remember Mr. David as a high school teacher at BMS in the late 1950s when I was in elementary school.”*

- Dennis King, class of 1964

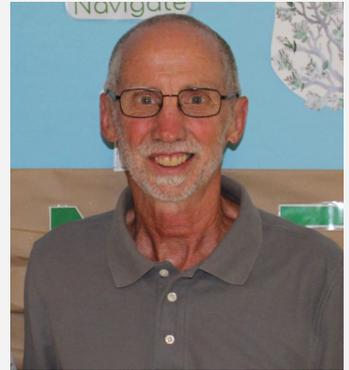
To learn more about Mr. David’s life and career following his time at BMS, visit:

<https://emu.edu/now/news/2021/neurologist-pays-forward-the-financial-support-encouragement-that-got-him-through-emu-medical-school/>



**Develop Minds. Build Faith. Be Disciples.**

Marlin Yoder, BMS class of 1971, was a teacher for 41 years. He spent 26 of those years at Eastern Mennonite High School in Harrisonburg, VA. However, a standout memory from his career as an educator is when he returned to Eswatini in Southern Africa 11 years after teaching in a very needy school there for three years with MCC. “By chance I met three students whom I had taught for two years and learned that their class was the first one at that school in which students had passed the national math exams. It was so gratifying to see them using their education in positive ways.” Marlin adds, “To this day, meeting former students and hearing what they’re doing as adults is always a wonderful experience.”



*A classroom photo from Eswatini in 1982; some of the most industrious students Marlin ever taught!*



**57<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL Auction**  
May 27 & 28, 2022

**Friday, May 27:**

Chicken BBQ Dinner 5:00-7:00 PM,  
Live Music, Silent Auction

**Saturday, May 28:**

Breakfast 6:30-8:30 AM,  
Certificate and Merchandise Auction  
begins at 8:30 AM, Food & Baked  
Goods, Kids Activities

Visit [www.bmsprek12.org](http://www.bmsprek12.org) for more  
information, photos and auction items.



**BELLEVILLE**  
MENNONITE SCHOOL

*Online Auction*

April 23, 2022

