

Ed Knox has been an integral part of SPHS's Business, Innovation, and Leadership Signature program. As a member of the Integrated Signature Stakeholders Team, he participates in monthly meetings and collaborates with the team to determine the next steps and direction of the Signature program. He knows the success of the Signature program is a joint effort between the business community, faculty, students, and parents. He has maintained a very active role to ensure a successful program which enhances student achievement and opportunity. Having served on the ICST for 4 years, with over 240 volunteer hours, he has been instrumental in developing unique curriculum preparing our students for the 21st century workplace. With Ed's help and resources, we have been able to develop the first student run screen printing, vinyl cutting, and laser engraving business in Anne Arundel County high schools, SPCustoms. This class, Exploration 2, serves as the second class in the Signature program pathway. In its second year running, students have been able to gain experience in all aspects of managing and running a business. This includes manufacturing, distribution, customer service, marketing, and management. To date, the business has made over two-thousand dollars in profit and delivered over four thousand units of product. Student, Haley N. remarked, "This is the best class I have ever taken. I have learned so much about how businesses run because I actually get to do it! Every time I go into a store, I think differently now."

Mr. Knox continuously models the positive relationship between business partners and teachers by providing opportunities for teachers to make real-world connections to their curriculum. For the past four years, with his help and support, we have been able to arrange a faculty field trip, which enables teachers to visit local businesses and connect current industry trends with their curriculum. During Ed's tenure, on the ICST, teachers have been able to visit Johns Hopkins Hospital, Amazon, Md. Port Authority, AOL, Masonville Environmental Research Center, and the Foundry Maker Space to name a few. Mrs. Earhart, English teacher, remarked, "This is the best professional development of the year. I love imparting the new knowledge that I learn from these experiences to my students. It keeps me fresh in my teaching so that I can make learning relevant for my students."

Ed's partnership has been paramount in providing our students with real-world opportunities and workforce skills not only within our community but also globally. Last fall, Mr. Knox was able to arrange a special behind the scenes tour to the White House and special meeting with Senator Cardin. The students were able to discuss the importance of an entrepreneurial mind set and ways in which the federal government can assist them in their journey of success.

Mr. Knox's truly cares about the education of our youth and cultivates the next generation of leaders. Through his partnership students are able to find their passion and gain experience to last a lifetime.

We are grateful for his partnership.