

Danny's "back door" entrance into the teaching profession!

After graduating from CNC in 1972, I entered graduate school at UVA's Mt. Lake Biological Station summer school program situated in the Appalachian Mountains. While there in August, I received a letter from the York County Draft Board indicating that I would be drafted into the US Army by the end of the year. Since that didn't happen, for some unknown reason, I wasn't drafted. So now I needed to secure money to continue graduate school and thought I could get a part time job substitute teaching and also continue with my research. So in January 1972, I first tried the York County Public School system and was denied since I didn't have a degree in Education. Next stop was NN Public Schools and there was an opening for a full-time physics position at Carver Intermediate, which I did not want. After much discussion with the Director of Human Resources, he was determined that I should take this opportunity! So we decided that I would take the job and after 2 weeks it wasn't working for me, I would quit. However, by the end of the first week, the students were great and I could see that they were learning something from me, even being a biologist. During this semester, I continued to visit YHS and talk with Mrs. Ramer, the science department chair and my former AP Bio teacher. So in June with Tabb opening in the fall, half of the teaching staff was going to THS and I now had a provisional teaching certificate good for 3 years, why not teach at YHS full time and save my money for grad school. So she took me to the new principal's office, Claude Milam, and Mrs. Barnes, his secretary, who remembered me as a former student. She went in to talk with Mr. Milam, I then went in and was offered a full time job – that offer was based on Mrs. Barnes's recommendation! I taught for 3 years, took a leave of absence for one year from YHS since VaTech required a year's residency to obtain my MS in Zoology. There I remained until Feb 1994.