



## State Board District 11 Rick Wakefield

Rick Wakefield is the Career Tech Teacher Academy instructor at Maple Heights High School. The academy serves junior and senior students interested in teaching careers from five neighboring school districts: Bedford, Cleveland Heights, Maple Heights, Shaker Heights and Warrensville Heights. He also teaches a ninth-grade course called Stang Nation, designed to help ease students' transition from middle school to high school.

With Cleveland State University, Rick received the Strengthening Ohio's Teacher Pipeline through Partnership Grant to explore ways to introduce high school students to education careers. His passion is recruiting teacher candidates from diverse backgrounds into a profession that he feels desperately needs diversity. He serves on the executive committee for Educators Rising Ohio, an organization of more than 1,000 Ohio high school students aspiring to become educators.

Rick received his Bachelor of Arts degree in English from The Ohio State University in 2001. He completed the English language arts licensure program at Cleveland State University in 2006 and his Master of Education degree from Ashland University in 2013.

Rick's teaching career has been exclusive to Maple Heights High School. He was an English teacher for eight years before taking over the Teacher Academy, and he coached the varsity baseball team for seven years.

He credits his fifth-grade teacher, Jeffrey Hollern, and his elementary school physical education teacher, John Blaine, for inspiring him to become a teacher. Both are from Colonial Hills Elementary in Worthington.