



## State Board District 9 Robert Niedermeyer

Robert Niedermeyer is a seventh-grade science teacher at the STEM Middle at Baldwin Road Junior High in Reynoldsburg City Schools. He is the grade level and science team lead and developed the Sustainable Outdoor Innovation Learning (SOIL) Lab. The lab is the district's first middle-level, science-based elective course that focuses on sustainability and urban agriculture.

Robert grew up in the world of education. His mother taught first grade for 38 years and his father was a technical instructor for a global technology corporation. As an undergraduate student at The Ohio State University, Robert followed his passion for engineering and architecture, and quickly realized that this passion and his previous exposure to traditional education could be blended. Robert earned a bachelor of science in human ecology from The Ohio State University and a master of science in education from Ashland University.

Robert inspires students to become producers, not just consumers. His classroom looks like an engineering and design course that embeds Ohio science standards. In the SOIL lab, Robert's students develop ways to combat food insecurity while being stewards of the environment. He believes that real problems are more important to learning than learning standards and works with his team to develop learning experiences for his students through a transdisciplinary, problem-based learning (TPBL) model.

Robert's commitment to his students earned him the *Columbus Parent* and *ThisWeek News* 2019 Middle Level Teacher of the Year Award.