



Wally Belinsky 159.
ROBS HISTORY PROJECT
Exit Interview 10/10 4.29.10

Hi! My name is Wally Belinsky. Why now? "Hmm! I've got a lot of other things that I've got to do at this time. It's been almost forty-two years in all. This was it right from the first day. I began at Northeast Elementary with Charlie Black and then I went to West Middle School after which I went back to Northeast. I've been at West Middle for the last seven years and every year I've taught in Brentwood has been memorable. You might say that this last year has been the most difficult only because at this point it's getting closer to that time, but no, every year has just been gratifying and wonderful."

The proudest moment I experienced during my tenure? Well, I like to see kids who are graduating and going on into the music business and making a success of themselves and even the ones who aren't in the music business but graduate and are successful as people. My instrument is piano. I occasionally play music dates on the side but not as often as I once did, primarily because of the old arthritis.

The one thing that I would most like to see changed would have to do with some kids attitudes; the attitude they have that leads them to believe we owe them something as opposed to what they, might possibly owe us; like respect for example, or civil behavior. I think they have absolutely no socialization skills, so that's what I think we have to work on with them. It's not going to be on the test but most of the time, believe it or not, in my teaching I try to focus on these social skills and the positive stuff because once you get that you can go on and teach your subject matter. Just seeing kids succeed is what gave me the most satisfaction and watching them mature. I'm able to maintain connections with quite a few former students.

How do I want to be remembered, (He laughed), "I don't. Oh, I don't know. However they want to remember me. I don't have an epitaph.") To his successor he said, "It's all about the kids. You really have to be sensitive to a lot of their issues - like what's going on in their lives, because that's very important to be in touch with each individual student because sometimes you don't know what's going on when students come in and are acting abnormal and perhaps its, a situation at home, and maybe your subject is not the most important thing to them at that moment. So, you know, you have to be sensitive to their needs. Thank you very much." It's been my pleasure."

Wally Belinsky began teaching in Brentwood in 1968 and after forty-two years of active service decided to retire. He began teaching music in North East Elementary School and alternated between there and West Middle School.