

Friday 8/28/15

## My Dear Students —

When my daughter Hannah died terribly and tragically last year, it ripped me apart. I am still not whole, and I never will be. But as I reflected on the rest of my life, I knew I wanted to re-dedicate myself to my love of teaching high school and my love for my students. Hannah understood that caring for, and about, young people was something I was good at and something that made me happy. She would want me to be here with you, helping you find yourself, your way in the world, and a path toward your dreams.

So, that is why I am here, and that is what I will do.

All the love I'd stored up for Hannah I now have for you, my students. So having made this commitment, know that I love & care for you even though I don't know you yet. And if you can dedicate yourself to meeting me half-way and putting forth a good and solid effort each day, good things will happen. And we will both be better.

I'm hoping you'll let me walk beside you on this journey, and hoping all your journeys bring joy. Love, Mr. Nek