

Dennis Schanski

6th Grade Science, 7th and 8th Grade Physical Education

I decided to become a teacher/coach when I was a freshman in high school (in other words, a long time ago!). I was born and raised in Perry, Michigan, which is midway between Lansing and Flint. I earned my Bachelor's degree from Alma College, where I made football history by becoming the first collegiate football player to score a touchdown in the Pontiac Silverdome. I later was granted my Master's degree from Central Michigan University. I've been teaching since 1982, and in Harbor Springs since 1987. In addition to my teaching duties, I have also held a wide array of coaching positions, including football, basketball, track, softball, and volleyball. My family lives in Harbor Springs. I have three children: Robert (a University of Michigan graduate working in Ann Arbor), Payne (also a University of Michigan graduate living in Ann Arbor), and Morgan (a junior at Central Michigan University). My spare time interests include "attempting" to golf, riding my bicycle, playing basketball, and keeping up with my family. I believe that a child's attitude toward school is one of the major factors affecting his/her academic performance. Therefore, I try to make my classroom a place where students **want** to be, not a place where they **have** to be. We utilize a great variety of hands-on activities, play learning games, and have a few laughs along the way. Most importantly, I stress to each of my students the ultimate lesson of all: **Do the very best you can in everything you do!**

"YOU ARE HERE TO LEARN!"

-Dennis Schanski