

Don Berry

Your question as to why I spent a career in education turned out to be a little more complicated to answer than I had expected. There were many reasons that led me to choose education as a career, starting with my grandmother who graduated from San Jose State Normal, now SJSU, in 1896 and who taught for many years I also graduated from San Jose State in education and am a Golden Graduate this year. I, as many teachers have indicated, was also fortunate to have had wonderful teachers and role models that helped to form my personality and values. I also grew up in a fairly small town that had schools that provided me the opportunity to explore many areas not only academically, but also in athletics, music, drama, etc. and had wonderful community support. This love and appreciation of many areas led me to realize that I could help young people in the development and goals for their futures.

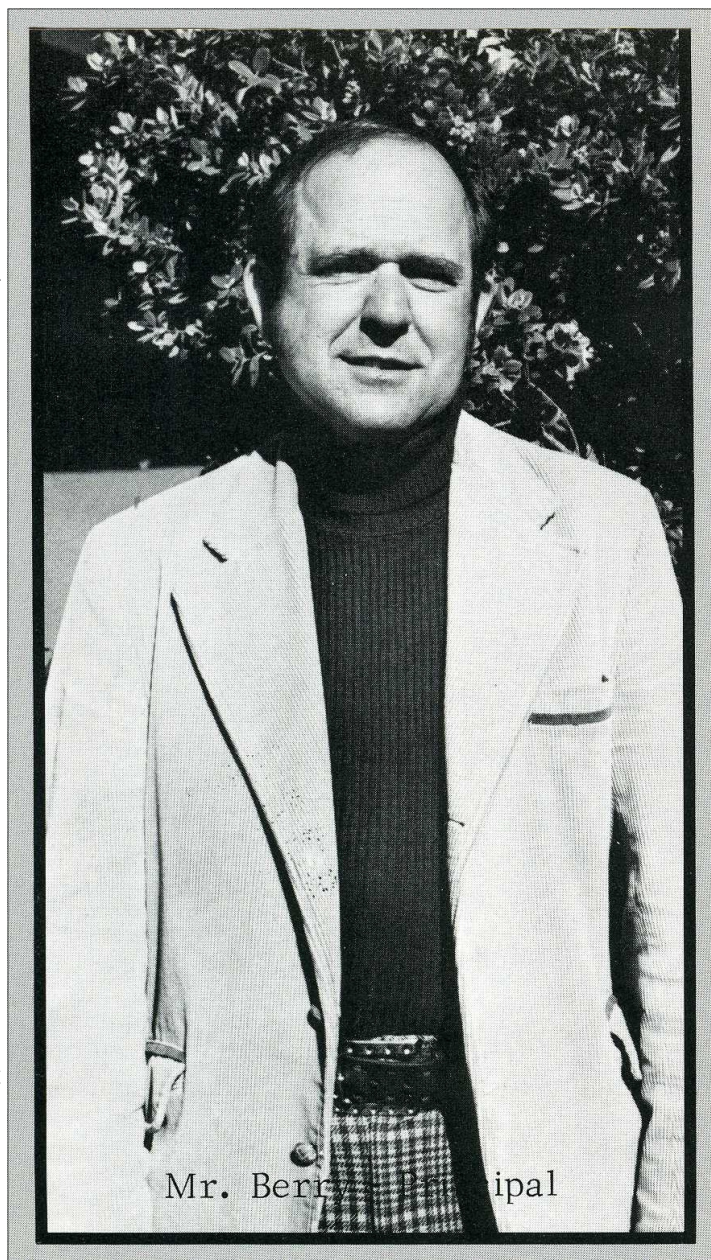
My experiences in teaching, coaching, student activities, administration and working for the San Mateo County Juvenile Probation Department opened new challenges throughout my career. It was very challenging and rewarding to help special needs students, troubled students and families with their individual challenges. I learned that my greatest success and gratification came from direct contact with the student, and not the paper work of a central office.

I have never tired of watching good kids do good things. I still enjoy prep athletics, musical and drama events, projects such as art and science... anything that demonstrates student growth, interest and achievement. I remember a high school coach I had once told me that going to school each day he expected to do much of the same thing, however, it seemed something would happen that would make that day different and challenging, never boring.

Oh how right he was!

I have had the pleasure of maintaining many friendships with former students over the years and have had the pleasure of attending many weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, retirement parties and unfortunately funerals. I have never regretted my choice of going into education and enjoyed all 41 years of this wonderful profession.

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Mr. Berry Principal