



Stephen Kainz, English

St. Pius X alumni? Nope. SLUH.

Graduation year: 2006

Years teaching/Years teaching at St. Pius X: 6

Department: English

Coaching or club sponsorship Roles: Boys and Girls Tennis coach, Cereal Killers moderator

Degree(s)/Degree-granting Institution: Truman State University, K-Vegas, MO

Major/Academic Area: B.A. in English and M.A.E. in Secondary English Education

Tell us about your proudest moment at Pius X. Can I say a couple things that are all related? It would be the fact that St. Pius simultaneously held the boys and girls team district tennis titles in 2017. For both teams, it was the first time either had won the team title in the school's history. And in addition to the team titles we also won the boys doubles, girls doubles, and girls singles tournaments.

What interests do you pursue outside of the classroom? In my free time I read third-world post-colonial literature, hit tennis balls against walls while listening to murder podcasts, and rewatch "Jersey Shore".

What is your philosophy of education? My ultimate goal is get students so good at reading comprehension, writing skills, and critical thinking that they don't need me anymore, that they're essentially self-sufficient when they head off to whatever job or school they chose. Many of the classes I teach are dual credit classes through UMSL, but all my classes operate like a college-style seminar, so even if they're not signed up for college credit, they're still getting ready for the next phase of life.

How do you motivate your students to become active learners in your classroom? A lot of teenagers don't think it's cool to really care or be passionate about something so I just don't hold back my thoughts, opinions, and feelings on the subject matter (aka crying on a daily basis while I teach Extremely Loud). Hopefully if they see their teachers being passionate about something then they can feel more confident and active in whatever area they're passionate about.