

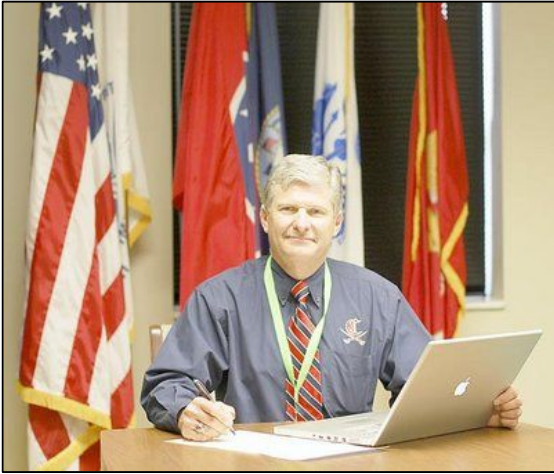
22 QUESTIONS: CHS PRINCIPAL WAYNE SHANKS

Name: Wayne Shanks

Hometown: Cookeville

Now living in: Cookeville

Family: My beautiful wife Kathy and I have been married for 36 years. Our oldest daughter Tiffany is married to Matt Davidson. They have a 2-year-old son (Easton) and they reside in Cookeville. They are expecting a second son in July. Our youngest daughter Andrea is married to Drew Langley and they reside in Knoxville. Our son Wes lives in Cookeville and is engaged to Alex Mullican of Warren County.



First job: I worked for a Cookeville construction company owned by Benton Speakman. The company specialized in block and brick masonry and concrete construction. I was paid \$2.50 per hour.

Current occupation (and since when): I have been an educator with the Putnam County Board of Education since 1976. The first 17 years I was employed as a teacher and coach at Upperman High School. The following 17 years I have been employed as a system wide supervisor and as a school administrator. I have been the building principal of Cookeville High School for the last 10 years.

What I love about my job: I enjoy observing teachers and students genuinely engaged in passionate teaching and learning. I appreciate our supportive administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents who have high expectations for our school and who are willing to reinvent our school design if needed in order to provide all students with a rigorous, relevant and personal education. I also enjoy commencement ceremonies (especially this time of the year).

Part of my job I could do without: Student failure

What drew me to this occupation was: Both my mother and father, Walter W. and Wanda Shanks, worked for the Putnam County Board of Education. Dad was a mathematics teacher and mother worked in a support role as a clerical worker. I observed their efforts in providing students, parents and teachers with caring support.

Dream job: Is to eventually retire and take over the family farm operation and coach my grandsons' baseball teams

When I'm not working I'm: Occasionally, Kathy and I take the top off the Jeep and enjoy the countryside. We also spend time on the family farm where there is always something to do.

I'm most proud of: My wife, Kathy, and our three children (Tiffany, Andrea and Wes).

Something most people don't know about me: I'm a 1972 graduate of Cookeville High School (formerly called Putnam County Senior High School -- PCSHS)

Favorite movie: Blindsight

Favorite food: A premium cut steak produced from a beef steer from our farm

My hero (and why): Both my mother and father: They raised three sons on a family farm with a modest income. The lessons learned while working on the farm provided each of us with life skills that prepared us for adulthood. As Christians, they lived their faith and they shared their morals and ethics by example.

As a child, I thought I'd grow up to be: A professional baseball player

What I watch on TV: Sports, NCIS and various history programs

Favorite childhood memory: Hanging out at my grandfather's (Walter R. Shanks) country store located on Hopewell Road in western Putnam County. And, the time we shared while traveling on a family vacation to the Washington, D.C., area. I've been hooked on history ever since.

If I could do it all over again I'd: I would not change anything.

I'd love to meet (living or dead): Simon Shanks. He is my great-great-great grandfather. As a settler, he traveled through the Cumberland Gap from the Virginias to the Indian Creek area of western Putnam County in the early 1800s.

Advice I'd pass on to future generations: Be a lifelong learner and follow the "Golden Rule."

23 May 2010: Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

*See Shanks files at: <http://www.ajlambert.com>