

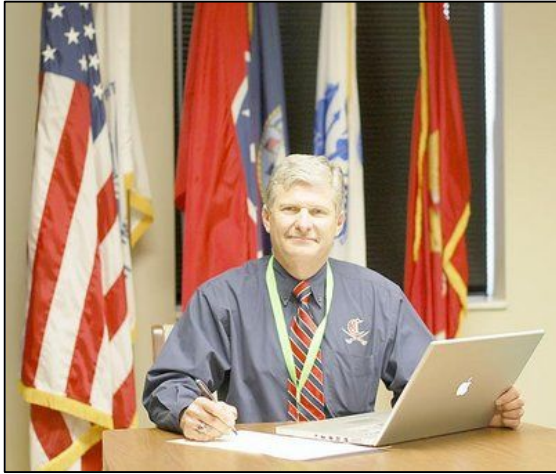
22 QUESTIONS: CHS PRINCIPAL WAYNE SHANKS

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

SHANKS SPENT MORE THAN THREE DECADES SERVING PUTNAM STUDENTS

By Bailey Darrow, Herald-Citizen Staff

Herald-Citizen, Cookeville, TN

Sunday, 8 July 2012

PUTNAM COUNTY – After watching his mother and father dedicate their careers to educating students in Putnam County, becoming an educator was a natural choice for Wayne Shanks. Thirty-six years after his own teaching career began in Putnam County, Shanks is retiring to spend more time with his second passion his family.



“What attracted me to this profession were my father and mother, Water Warren and Wanda Shanks worked for the Putnam County Board of Education,” Shanks said. “Dad was a mathematics teacher and later elected PC Superintendent of Schools (1972-1984). Mother worked in a school support role as a substitute teacher, teacher assistant and as a bookkeeper at CHS.

(Pictured: Wayne Shanks is presented with a painting of the red barn located on the Shanks farm in Buffalo Valley. CHS art teacher Mitch White painted the image which was

presented in honor of Shank’s service to Putnam County School system.)

“As a student in the school buildings where my parents worked, I observed and admired their efforts in providing students, parents and teachers with caring support.”

After high school graduation, Shanks left Putnam County to continue his education earning an associate of science degree from Otlow State Junior College and then a bachelor of sciences, degree from Middle Tennessee State University with certifications in health sciences, safety, and recreation.

In 1976, Shanks came home to Putnam County to begin his teaching. For 17 years, he was a teacher and coach at Upperman High School.

“As a child, I aspired to play professional baseball,” Shanks said. “I have always enjoyed the competition of many sports. As a coach, I tried to promote and instill into my players good work ethic, the importance of preparation and organizational skills, teamwork, setting goals. There were the things that were of great benefit to me during my playing days.”

Shanks led Upperman teams to success. In 1982, the baseball team was runner up for the championship, and in 1991 and 1993, the team was named state champion. In 1994, he was awarded the Distinguished Service Recognition Award from the TSSAA. In 1995, he was inducted into the Tennessee Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame with a record of 409 wins and 104 losses.

Shanks also led the UHS women’s baseball team on its first ever trip to the state tournament.

Following his initial work at UHS, Shanks spent two years as a system-wide supervisor. Then, he put his master’s degree with a professional license in administration and supervision with endorsements in Pre-K through 12th grade from Tennessee Tech to use by spending 17 years as principal at two different county high schools.

From 1995 to 2000, Shanks returned to UHS as principal where he helped the school develop an honors level curriculum for students interested in a more rigorous program of studies.

“I enjoy observing teachers and students genuinely engaged in passionate teaching and learning,” Shanks said. “I feel a lot of excitement when students, meet and then exceed their potential. This occurs when we provide students with a rigorous, relevant and personal education.”

In 2000, Shanks was named building principal at Cookeville High School where he has served for 12 years.

“As a building administrator, I enjoyed helping and working personally with administrators, faculty, staff, students and parents to create a school culture and climate based on high expectations for all,” Shanks said.

Shanks saw CHS through many new programs, including the application to become an International Baccalaureate Diploma school in 2001.

“In 2003, CHS received authorization to provide the IB Diploma Programme, which is designed as an academically challenging and balanced programme of education with final examinations that prepares students for success at university and life beyond,” Shanks said. “The programme is normally taught over two years and has gained recognition and respect from the world’s leading universities.”

At the time, CHS was only the fourth high school and the only non-metropolitan school in the state to offer the IBO program.

Under Shanks’ supervision, CHS has also expanded advanced placement options for students and implemented a single lunch period for all students.

“The schedule has contributed more to a positive school climate than any other single factor,” Shanks said. “Lunchtime is rarely considered a scheduling or instructional component. All students have an equal opportunity to take advantage of academic, counseling, club needs as well as other obligations that students rarely have time to do during the school day.”

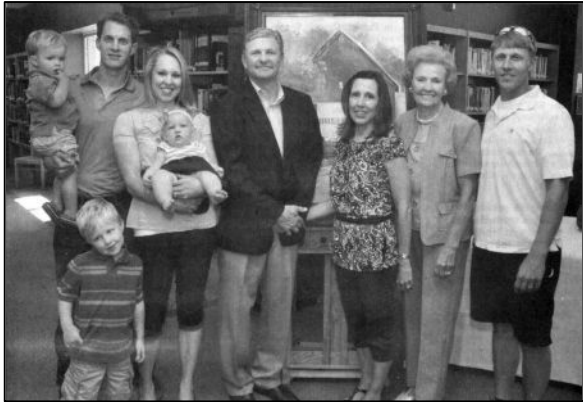
In 2008, CHS also created a freshman transition model to help entering ninth grade successfully meet goals and objectives.

Wayne's wife of 38 years, Kathy (Sutton) Shanks, is also a retired teacher. Kathy taught for 33 years, working at Cookeville Junior High and Cookeville High School.

The couple has three children. Their oldest daughter, Tiffany, is a 2001 Abilene Christian graduate and is married to Matt Davidson. They have two sons, Easton age 4 and Graham Warren age 2, and one daughter Baylor Kate, age 8 months. Tiffany and Matt reside in Cookeville. Their youngest daughter Andrea is a 2005 UT graduate and is married to Drew Langley. Andrea and Drew reside in Knoxville. Wes Shanks is the couple's youngest child. He is a 2009 UT graduate and is married to Alex Mullican. They live in Cookeville and are expecting their first child in December.

"When Kathy and I are not playing with our grandchildren we enjoy gardening in our yard," Wayne said. "Occasionally, we will take the top off the Jeep and enjoy the countryside. We also spend time on the family farm in Buffalo Valley where there is always something to do. Watching baseball and golf are a favorite. I also enjoy playing golf when I get the opportunity. Also, we have recently enjoyed some traveling and hope to do more."

At a recent reception held in Wayne's honor, he was presented with a painting by CHS art teacher Mitch White. The painting depicts the barn on the Shanks family farm in Buffalo Valley, a reminder of Shanks' roots and service in Putnam County.



Grandsons Graham and Easton Davidson, with their father Matt Davidson, sister Baylor Davidson and mother Tiffany Davison congratulate Wayne Shanks for 36 years of teaching along with Shanks' wife Kath, his mother Wanda, and his son Wes. Not pictured are daughter-in-law Alex Shanks, daughter and son-in-law Andrea and Drew Langley.

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