

DAVE DENBOW

Dave Denbow graduated from Northwest in 1973, growing up in House Springs where his father served as pastor of House Springs Church of the Nazarene. This same church his father once pastored is now led by his son. Northwest has truly been a family tradition for Dave Denbow. His three brothers also attended Northwest, as did his son, daughter, daughter-in-law, and grandson.

After high school, Dave worked in his family's businesses before taking a position with Boeing, where he helped build fighter jets. His early career reflected his steady work ethic and attention to detail—qualities that would later define his service to students and staff.

At the age of 40, Dave felt called to a new path and entered law enforcement. He joined the Jefferson County Sheriff's Office, serving the community with integrity and resolve. He recalls working an active drug scene on a Friday when he received a call directing him to report to Northwest High School the following Monday as the new School Resource Officer. It was 2002. The world had changed in the wake of the tragic events at Columbine High School, and large high school campuses across the country were reassessing safety and security needs.

Dave stepped into the role at a pivotal time. What began as an assignment quickly became a calling. He discovered that he loved working in the school environment—building relationships, mentoring students, and serving as a steady presence on campus. Just a few years later, in 2004, he transitioned into a district campus security role, a position he would faithfully hold until 2020.

For 16 years, Dave Denbow was a quiet constant at Northwest. He walked the halls, monitored parking lots, and worked countless hours at games, graduations, and large events. He saw it all. He intervened when necessary, offered calm counsel when emotions ran high, and encouraged positive behavior in ways that often went unnoticed but never unfelt. He was unassuming and steady—yet always exactly where you needed him.

Dave deeply appreciated his years working alongside Principal Mr. Brad Snell. They respected each other's roles and responsibilities, understanding that effective leadership often requires partnership built on

trust. He also valued his collaboration with three School Resource Officers during his tenure: Deputy Jonas Allen, Deputy Mark Grobe, and Corporal Christina Boxx. Corporal Boxx became not only a trusted colleague but a lasting friend—someone he still meets for lunch and checks in on regularly.

Those who worked with Dave counted on him every single day. His watchful eye, resourcefulness, and calm demeanor brought reassurance to staff and students alike. Though he retired five years ago, his impact remains. When his name is mentioned on campus, faces light up with fond memories of moments when he stepped in to help, support, or simply listen.

Dave retired during the COVID-19 pandemic. He remembers walking out of an eerily quiet building for the last time. While he felt sadness closing that chapter, his heart was especially heavy for the seniors who missed the traditions and celebrations they had anticipated for years.

In retirement, Dave enjoys fishing and sharing coffee with his son. Yet Northwest High School will always hold a special place in his heart—just as he holds one in ours. He exemplifies what it means to lead from your chair. Not all leaders are loud. Some lead through consistency, humility, and presence.

From his quiet but vital role, Dave Denbow made a profound and lasting impact on Northwest High School. He is truly deserving of the Northwest Alumni Association Impact Award.