

PRESIDENT'S AWARD OF EXCELLENCE FOR
OUTSTANDING LAW RELATED EDUCATION TEACHER



Christopher Kourevelas has been teaching for 15 years. He is a coach and teacher at Elm Grove Middle School in Bossier City. In addition to teaching civics, history, and government, he is the boys' basketball coach and athletic director. His enthusiasm and passion for teaching and coaching is extremely evident in his work. From all accounts, he does not really work for awards nor recognition, but to inspire others and to have a meaningful impact on his students.

Kourevelas feels that law related education is important to students because, "if our youth are able to understand the freedoms of a democratic society, they will in turn be more likely to abide by laws and become more productive citizens." In the classroom, he teaches students to learn in constructive ways to resolve conflict, to have higher order thinking and critical problem-solving skills, and to learn to respect people in authority and laws.

Acknowledging that we live in a period of conflict, he takes nothing for granted in teaching social studies. He mixes traditional and contemporary approaches. On the traditional side, he asks his students to memorize lines from the Declaration of Independence and famous speeches, especially those that focus on difficult compromise and principled revolt. He hopes that ideas and speeches will ring in his students' heads well into adulthood, inciting them to action. He mixes contemporary style in teaching by incorporating iCivics lessons and DBQs. He has class debates often.

He once quoted, "God must have loved ordinary people because he made so many of them. But every day, ordinary people, do extraordinary things." Indeed, Kourevelas is one of those ordinary people doing extraordinary things. Through his dedication to his profession, he is undoubtedly inspiring our youth to do so as well.