

STAFF LEAVING FOR NEW PLACES

The mighty Trojans walk away, leaving their battle gear behind to become a part of a fearsome storm, the Lightning Bolts. Some teachers will be walking through the doors of West High one last time and entering new ones at Liberty High.

Social studies teacher Brady Shutt said he was trying to look past the challenges and see the appeal in teaching at Liberty.

“I am excited for the new challenges we will have there because I like to build things and put teams together while building a community,” Shutt said.

For other teachers, Liberty offered a chance to teach close to home.

“I have a lot of mixed emotions,” science teacher Shishonee Hughes said, laughing. “I love West and I have a ton of green in my closet, obviously, and have always been ‘West High Best High.’ But my kiddos are going to be at Liberty ... I’m super excited to be a part of creating the culture of the school they’re going to be at.”

Although she’s excited, language arts teacher Peggy Dolson walked down this road before.

“I still talk to two teachers at Hempstead High School from when I switched before,” Dolson said. “I will miss my colleagues, but I will keep in touch with them, especially since we will remain in the same district.”

And the teachers who leave will certainly miss their students.

“There are so many great memories,” art teacher Jenny Saylor said, smiling. “One of the basic things we used to do was Wellness Wednesday. Years ago, students would come into what is the training room now and we would do yoga together. We used to have 30 kids crammed into this tiny space.”

The students at Liberty won’t be the only ones who are learning.

“I will have to teach things I haven’t before, like with 2D art, while I specialize more in 3D style, and that will be an adventure of its own,” Saylor said.

Still, change can be rough for those who have taught at one school for many years.

Although the teachers accepted the change, they also were finding it difficult.

“That is where the bittersweet moment falls—leaving with the relationships I have with the people here,” Spanish teacher Carmen Gwenigale said. “I’ve created a lot of bonds with students, and not seeing them complete their Spanish is hard. But it is 50-50, so I’ll see some finish and some I won’t.”

And those special moments at West cannot be forgotten.

“One of the best days here is Halloween, because of the creativity we have from students and staff members with their costumes,” math teacher Kay Nigg said. “That’s going to be something I truly miss.”

—Megan Haman



PHOTO BY ALLIE HAMBRIGHT

LESSON PLANS

Language arts teacher Peggy Dolson writes plans for the upcoming week. “Everything is going to be new [at Liberty],” she said. “I will say, the air conditioning to me was kind of an appeal, and the new equipment. That was important.”

PRACTICE PRACTICE

Kay Nigg teaches her first-hour Algebra II Honors class Jan. 12 in Room 204. “It’ll be sad to say goodbye to West,” Nigg said. “I’ll miss my colleagues and students.”

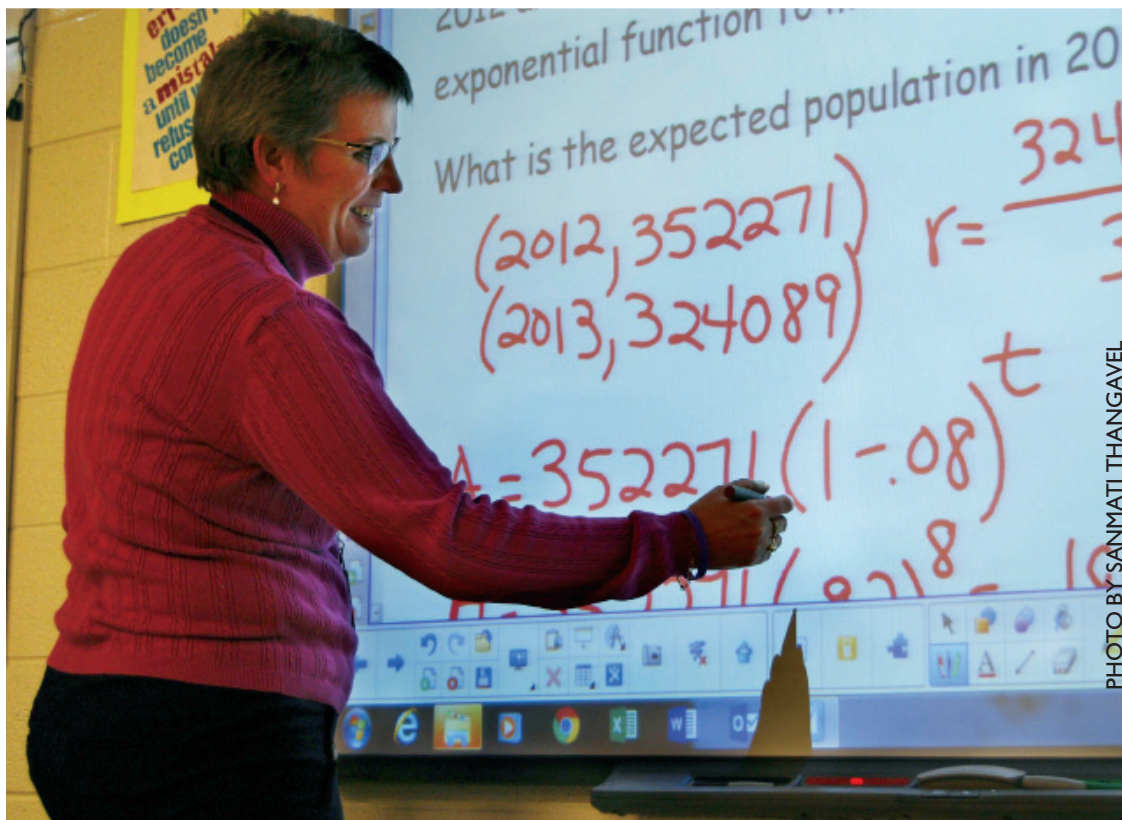


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