

Meet the teacher: Deb Wudtke

Deb Wudtke has training in death-scene investigation, and she's not afraid to use it in the classroom.

But don't get the wrong idea. Mrs. Wudtke teaches a forensic science class at MELHS in which students learn to put scientific principles to work in crime scene investigations. Wudtke created a similar crime-scene program at the St. Louis Science Center, where she previously spent 11 years as the manager of the Life Science Galleries. While at the Science Center, she oversaw the Human Adventure, Med Tech and DNA Zone galleries, gave teacher workshops, presented at national science education conferences and developed prototypes of new life science exhibits.

Mrs. Wudtke left the Science Center to join MELHS, where she now teaches biology, advanced biology, anatomy and physiology, microbiology and DNA, and forensic science.

"Our science program here at MELHS is really strong," Mrs. Wudtke said. "We are always looking for ways to enhance our curriculum because isn't it better for students to understand how science really works than just memorizing the equation for photosynthesis?"

Mrs. Wudtke at a Glance:

- Bachelor's in life science secondary education from Concordia Wisconsin
- Master's in biology for the biology teacher from Washington University
- Started her teaching career at Northeastern Wisconsin Lutheran High School (where, by the way, she taught MELHS Assistant Principal Rob Stock)

The best part about being a teacher: Seeing a kid's eyes light up when they make a real-world connection to a science idea.

The best part about being a MELHS teacher: This school is a family. You know so much more about your students than just how they're doing in biology, and I love that.

"All our science options are valuable for everyone, even students who aren't planning to pursue a career in science, because we will teach you to look at scientific evidence and draw your own conclusions."

DEB WUDTKE



METRO-EAST LUTHERAN HIGH SCHOOL ENGAGES YOUNG ADULTS IN A CHRIST-CENTERED ENVIRONMENT, DELIVERING ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND SPIRITUAL GROWTH