

# Todd Patterson

Educator

Todd Patterson, who retired from his 35 year career in teaching science in 2013, currently continues to work in the arts as the WHS Assistant Drama Director and is also the director and producer for Summer Stage Wooster, which will be producing *Oklahoma!* this summer.

After graduating from Carthage College with a degree in biological science, Patterson pursued his teaching career and, for the first 13 years of his career, also served as a high school football and wrestling coach, including serving as the head wrestling coach at WHS from 1985-1990.

When WHS opened the new facility in 1994, Patterson pursued the co-drama director position as he also wanted to work in an extracurricular area in which his two daughters would participate.

Patterson said he found his inspiration in the arts from television, films and productions on stage as a young child. “As long as I can remember, I have loved music and have enjoyed singing. I was a kid who grew up in the early days of television. I also watched a lot of films and productions on stage. All those things ignited a desire to be creative and to entertain. I have also enjoyed many crafts, painting and every other hands-on art project that I experienced growing up,” Patterson said.

In looking at how he got involved in the arts, Patterson said, “I suppose we all grow up pursuing activities for which we’ve gotten some attention and praise. I was always pretty good at singing, acting and playing the class clown. The latter got me in trouble occasionally, but a quick wit usually allows me to make people laugh and have fun. So, we gravitate toward things that make us feel good about ourselves and challenge us to follow our passions. I really haven’t had much theatre training, but have been singing in choirs from pre-school through college and beyond.”

— Julia Hootman, *student interviewer*



***“A lot of what it took were the same things that help one be a successful teacher and coach; organization, planning, & doing your homework”***