



**Teacher Feature  
Staff  
in the  
Spotlight**

**John Stark**, Meadowbrook's Head Custodian, has a wide range of interests that have taken him on several adventures, but his passion keeps him rooted in Northbrook.

Mr. Stark grew up in District 28, attending Greenbriar, Westmoor, NBJH, and GBN. He went to college at The University of Wisconsin Oshkosh, but came back home over the summer to work for the schools doing maintenance, a crew that he supervises now. He also took a break from his studies in Wisconsin to attend the London School of Economics for more than two years. When he wasn't in class, he traveled all over Europe hitchhiking everywhere from Ireland to Italy to Switzerland.

When he finished college, Mr. Stark returned to the Chicago area where he explored his musical talents as a guitarist playing the local blues circuit and even had an opportunity to perform with the legendary Buddy Guy. After 8 years in the music business, Mr. Stark said he needed to pay the bills, and fortunately, District 28 had a position for him. His summer work led him to a job as a classroom aide and Kidcare staff. Eventually he became the head custodian at NBJH and then moved into the same role at Meadowbrook.

You are likely to see him outside the school in the mornings helping students safely cross Walters Avenue, and after school he's been spotted riding his Harley Davidson out of the school parking lot. On occasion, he says he's taken his bike all the way around Lake Michigan.

He now lives in Lake County on a ranch with his wife of 5 years. He is a step-father to her two sons, ages 15 and 19. At home, he enjoys riding his two horses, painting and making jewelry in his art studio in his garage, and even finds time to teach soccer to some of the kids in his neighborhood.

So what has kept him coming back to Northbrook and District 28 for the last 25 years? "This is actually accomplishing something," he says, adding that interacting with the kids is a "great reward."

**Fun Facts about John Stark**

Worked as a runway model for a year during college.

Took classes at Kendall College for 2 months and is the main cook in his family.

Wears his hair long as a tribute to his Apache heritage.

*Curious about a teacher or staff member at Meadowbrook? Send a request for someone you would like to see featured to [julieweinberg@me.com](mailto:julieweinberg@me.com).*