



# Teacher of the Year

**Lori Merkel**

As a twelfth year student in the East Valley school district I have been blessed to build strong connections with multiple staff members throughout elementary, middle, and high school. However, reflecting upon my high school career, one teacher comes to mind when thinking about someone who has impacted my life as a student.

This year, I have had the pleasure of learning psychology and sociology through college in the classroom, and civics from this teacher. These are all courses that could very well be difficult to comprehend, or maybe not the most interesting depending on who you are. However, never once have I walked down the hall to her class without a pep in my step. I am lucky enough to start and end my day with her, and knowing that I have her classes to look forward to gives me the extra push I need to get through the day. I think I can speak for the whole class of 2023 when I say that senioritis is real! That being said, it is so important to have a class to look forward to every day.

She is one of the only teachers who works with every single senior at EVHS at some point throughout the year. I went around and asked several of my peers what their favorite things about her were, and these were their quotes: ASB President Jaylin Brown says that she “loves her passion for teaching.” Athlete Owen Spendlove respects her “honesty with us as students, and her ability to support arguments made from all sides.”. Senior class officer Sahara Hinckley absolutely loves her “intention to help each individual student feel confident in all material, and of course her sense of style.” This is just a small handful of students who have been impacted by having this teacher, but I hope it gives you a flavor of who she is.

I have been lucky to have had a great number of amazing teachers in my years of being a student, but no one has left a mark on me quite like she has. I have and always will have tremendous respect for this woman, thank you for everything Mrs. Merkel!

