

SHERMAN CENTRAL SCHOOL

Wall of Fame

FRED DONELSON

Inducted 2017



Fred Donelson, an Ohio Master Teacher and National Board Certified Teacher, has been teaching science for 41 years. He is a 1972 Graduate of Sherman Central School, where he lettered in football, basketball, volleyball and baseball. He was a member of SCS National Honor Society, and enjoyed acting and music, having the leading male roles in musicals his last three years. He is a graduate of Otterbein University and has earned his Master's in Science Education from The Ohio State University. He has taught all types of science classes, from college astronomy to high school biology, physics and engineering, including unique courses in Space Technology, Underwater Robotics, Honors Bionics and Special Aspects, and all classes in a special Robotics and Engineering/STEM track which Donelson personally developed.

He has received numerous educator awards, including Outstanding Cooperating Teacher from The Ohio State University; Teacher of the Year from the Target Corporation; the Ashland Oil Teacher Achievement Award; and the Colonel George F. Leist Distinguished Science Teacher Award, just to name a few. He was one of only 20 teachers to be selected for NASA's 2013/14 NITARP program, where he and his students worked for a year with JPL and NASA scientists using the Kepler Space Telescope to analyze red giant star life cycles.

Donelson is a pioneer in authentic assessments and simulations in science education, and has been doing so since the early 90's. His work in space and underwater simulations has garnered many awards, and he often presents at professional development seminars and clinics, helping other teachers to use cutting edge technology to develop engaging classes and assessments for students.

He has also been instrumental in setting up global connections for his students, including several trips to China, where he has been instrumental in writing, teaching, and using project-based science curriculum for Chinese classrooms.

His favorite pastimes include hunting, fly-fishing, backpacking, mixing music, producing digital video and sitting by his wood-burning stove on snow days!