

Getting to Know Alvaro Holguin

Insight on Kennedy's math teacher who's done it all
by Vivian Duncan

Staff Writer

Teaching math to students at John F. Kennedy High School since 2014 has been one of the accomplishments that Alvaro Holguin has achieved despite all the hard times throughout his life. The classes he teaches include Algebra 2, Statistics, and Transition to College math. He began by subbing for Ms. Behnard, and the students ended up putting in a good word for him. Within a couple of weeks, Holguin was granted a position at Kennedy.

His career of teaching started in 1995 as an emergency teacher because there were hardly math teachers. Holguin states, "They were hiring people to teach math, even if they didn't have the credentials, because they were so desperate." He got the chance to substitute at schools all over the valley from Canoga Park High School to Sylmar High School.

Holguin explained, "I learned a lot, because I got to go to a lot of meeting with different schools. I was able to talk to teachers from other schools. I was exposed to a range of different students because I would substitute from Special ED to Calculus." During his first year of teaching at Byrd Middle School in Sun Valley, he quickly real-

ized that teaching middle schoolers was not a good fit for him. Holguin then pursued a career at San Fernando High School for 12 years and taught at Ver-

high school, all my friends were athletes. We all had a lot of things in common, we all had divorced parents, we all had no money, but we somehow figured out ways to have good times." This is just one of the ways Holguin would stay positive and happy throughout the normal rough times in life.

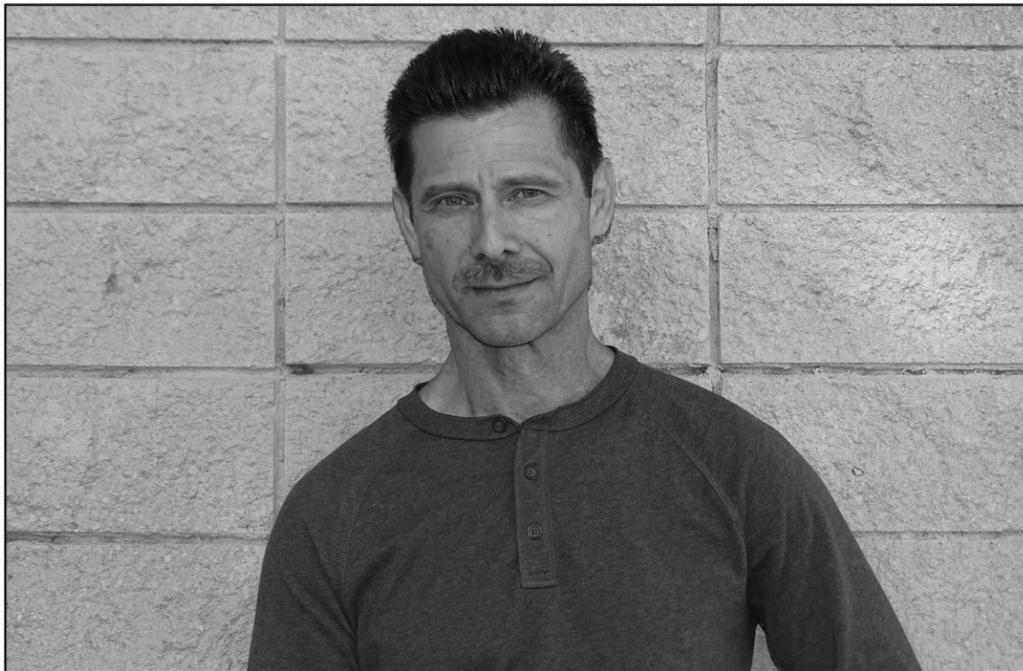
He explained that his parents never really made him do his homework; they sadly also didn't attend any school events. His relationships were rocky with his parents, but he was pretty close to his mother. Holguin wanted to be in the Marine Corps since he was about

little kids we didn't really know exactly what was going on."

Holguin joined the marine corps in 1978, he joined to serve his country, do something with his life, and do boot camp, he basically to do something really hard. "It was the marines or nothing," Holguin said. Boys always ask Holguin why he would ever want to join the Marines, he replies with, "It was the best experience. I learned more there than in college." The marine corps was just one of the biggest accomplishments he made throughout his tough life. After the Marines he decided to settle down.

Holguin has two children, one daughter and one son. His son is handicapped, and he is unable to speak or walk. Holguin states, "It's tough, but when I say tough though, I don't mean for me." His son had brain surgery at three months old, then went on and had two hip surgeries. He is 27 years old now. His daughter graduated college at 23 years old with a major in law.

For Holguin's future, he is always thinking something big is going to happen. He says that he is going to continue working here at John F. Kennedy until he eventually can't. Holguin said, "I think I could be 89 years old, and I'm thinking that something big is going to happen when I'm 90." He continues with that mindset everyday regardless of the bumps during his past.



Alvaro Holguin, a John F. Kennedy Math Teacher since 2014 and a high school teacher since 1995

dugo High School for 5 years.

Holguin attended school all around the area throughout his life time. For elementary he went to O' Melveny Elementary, then he went to San Fernando Jr. High, and graduated from San Fernando High School. Holguin claimed, "I had a great time in

He was born in 1960, but growing up for Holguin wasn't always easy. He explained that his parents got divorced when he was only 11, even though his parents were married for 14 years. Holguin admitted, "But as far as I can see, they were never really happy together." "

12. He developed the interest from watching movies and from his dad also being in the U.S. Army. Holguin stated, "One of my friend's brothers, Joey, had been in Vietnam and Cambodia, and when he came back we knew that he had been somewhere in the war, but we were

Are the Fire Alarms a Distraction?

A deeper look on Kennedy's fire alarm problem
by Bryan Lemus

Staff Writer

For the past few years, John F. Kennedy High School has been experiencing a major problem with fire alarms. Every week it seems as if the fire alarm goes off at least five times. It goes off from the beginning of school all the way to the very end. In most cases, it is incredibly disruptive to the learning of the students and the pacing of the teacher.

For example, imagine if the teacher is in the middle of a lesson and is about to wrap up, suddenly a loud screech and flashing lights begin to go off. That can throw the energy of a room completely off,

"...caused a major waste of time everywhere on the campus..."

making learning hard while pushing back the schedule.

Kennedy principal Richard Chavez stated, "The fire alarms cause a major waste of time everywhere on the campus; the staff is also affected because we have to find the source of the alarm and also inform the fire station."

This is not only a Kennedy problem, it's a district-wide issue. The main instigator of this issue is ob-

viously students pulling an alarm; however, it is also caused by a sensitive system that sometimes reacts to dust and even heat. Just to put this problem into perspective, the alarm has gone off 25 times this semester, leaving the students with a sense of disregard for the seriousness of an alarm.

Dr. Chavez also added, "Whoever is pulling the alarm is forgetting about the special needs students on campus who can be seriously affected by the

alarm. The loud noises can cause some student to scream, scratch and become frightened."

Some teachers have already been taking measures to help their students cope with the sudden noise. Special Ed teacher Jaymie Dean added, "To keep my students prepared for a serious fire, I have them line up every time the alarm goes off, so if there's a real emergency my students will be prepared and ready."

Other schools have begun to take action on this issue by putting a plastic screen over the alarm that, when lifted to access the alarm, will

make a loud noise to scare the hooligans pulling the alarm. The school can also invest in

"...the fire alarm problem is one that needs to be fixed and addressed quickly."

less sensitive alarms. All the money the school receives should be put back into the campus to create a more suitable learning environment. Both of these solutions are op-

tions that will be convenient to the future of the school

To put it simply, the fire alarm problem is one that needs to be fixed and addressed quickly. It is a huge problem for everyone on campus. It takes time from staff, teachers, and most importantly, students. The school needs to come together to combat this issue because its a huge disrespect to everyone's time on campus especially to those students that come to study and apply themselves. Students have become less reactive to the urgency of what an alarm really means.



Kenned student Matthew Ortiz showing a representation of the fire alarms being pulled during class hours and becoming a distraction