

Michael Matthews

Coach, Athletic Director, Contributor
Shawnee High School 1987 - 2006



Mike Matthews began his “teaching” career long before he entered his first classroom, graduating Glassboro State College in 1971 with a degree in Social Studies/Education. Upon graduation, Mike entered the military (U.S. Army Reserves) and served the country as an E5 from 1971 through 1977. After his military service, Mike returned to Glassboro State College and earned his Educational Administration degree in 1977.

Mike was hired in 1972 at Abraham Levitt Junior High School in Willingboro, NJ, where he also began his coaching career as the Freshmen Track Coach. Transferring to Willingboro High School in 1975, Mike then served as the Head Cross Country Coach and Assistant Spring Track Coach. During his time at Willingboro, through 1987, Mike, along with the program’s coaching staff, was fortunate to coach future Olympians Carol Lewis and her brother Carl Lewis. Carl Lewis went on to win nine Olympic gold medals in the 1980’s and 1990’s.



“Mr. Matthews” first entered through the doors of Shawnee High School in 1987, hired to teach Social Studies. He quickly immersed himself into the world of Shawnee Athletics, serving as Assistant Boys Track Coach (1988-1991), Assistant Girls Soccer Coach (1987-1990) and Assistant Girls Basketball Coach (1989-1991). While serving as the Assistant Boys Track Coach, Mike specialized working with athletes in Hurdle Events, and to this day, every boys hurdle event record at Shawnee is held by the student athletes which Mike coached. After retiring from coaching, Mike worked football games in the press box and was an announcer and game bookkeeper for Basketball and Wrestling. Due to that hands-on work, he saw the need for new scoreboards and sound systems. Mike worked to replace and improve those systems in the year 2000 when he became the Shawnee High School Athletic Director, serving in that role until 2006. During his years as Athletic Director, he started the Athletics Hall of Fame Program, the night Football program, Girls Volleyball program, and oversaw the start of the Boys Lacrosse program. Mike served as chair of Olympic Conference Softball and was instrumental in securing a full time Athletic Trainer to serve student athletes. Under his leadership as Athletic Director, Shawnee High School was **twice** selected by the NJSIAA as the “**Best Sports School in the State.**” Mike retired from Shawnee in 2006.

Mike continues to live in the vicinity of Shawnee High School and is enjoying his retirement years alongside his wife Patricia. He has two grown daughters, Jennifer Schiliro and Melissa Carter and six grandchildren who help to keep him very busy! Mike continues to serve Shawnee High School as a member of the Athletics Hall of Fame Committee.

-Congratulations on your induction, Michael!