

Joe Matthew Gutierrez

Conversation started on July 24, 2011....

Mr. Vranish,

I just wanted to say that you were a great principal during your time at Mathis ISD. Many kids there did not have the means to go on some of the trips you took us on. Basing eligibility on academic performance was a great idea. I think in any person's success story there are many people along the way that helped mold that person. You were one of those people for me. Since high school, I went on to graduate from college twice and now working as a Senior Consultant for banks and mortgage companies with one of the Big Four accounting firms.

I am sending this message only to provide evidence of your success as an educator, which I sure you have many stories already.

FYI - I was the little point guard on the varsity squad.

Mathis ISD - 97
Joe Matthew Gutierrez

Paul Vranish Replied:

You bring tears of joy to this old man!

That you went on to be such a success is no surprise to me. "Little Point Guard" in size - but very big in competitiveness and spirit.

Student's Speak submission on July 9, 2013

My favorite part of Mr. Vranish educational strategies involved rewarding positive behaviors. I recall not having the financial means to take vacations, but Mr. Vranish incentives strategies allowed me to see Hakeem and Houston Rockets live, attend a pro hockey an game, and other exciting events. The experiences allowed me to see that there was more to life that I could experience; if I continued to pursue my goals with a focus on academics. I graduated magma cum laude with BA in Bus. Administration and several years later earned a MBA with a 4.0 GPA. Now I am providing for my kids opportunities I never had. Thanks for showing us there was more to life than what was available in our small home town.

Era: Mathis ISD Job: 1993 - 1997

Relationship: Paul wants to share a story with the readers that he has already reminded Joe Matthew of in a Facebook post. The incident occurred during the Senior Trip to Washington, DC in 1997 – Joe

Matthew's year of graduation. Washington, DC, has many people who are Anglo, or African-American; but not that many Hispanics – certainly less in 1997. As the Mathis kids were strolling around Joe Matthew mentioned to Paul that, "They are all staring at us." Not wanting to respond in a negative way, Paul answered, "They are trying to figure out where you come from – they probably think you are some magazine model from Greece!" For the record, we both had more hair back then.

Paul has listed Joe Matthew's original message from July 24, 2011, as it was what gave Paul the inspiration for the Student's Speak section of this webpage – and he wanted to make sure the proper credit for this great idea was given.

We loving keeping up with the Gutierrez Family through Facebook – especially some of the great pictures from Mrs. Gutierrez!