

Abriel Mata

Where do I even begin?!!! I remember quite vividly the beautiful Mrs. Vranish greeting everyone with such a welcoming smile. She didn't judge nor separate us into cliques. She was the same with everyone and treated everyone with kindness and respect. The true meaning of due unto others... Etc.

Then there is the great Paul Vranish. The man that was the best thing to happen to Mathis High School. You personally stood up for me even against the school board members (Galvan and Cardona) when they came down on you for me being appointed, along with my beautiful friend Amanda Burnett, representative for the male athletes. I'm not sure if I ever thanked you for that, but Thank You!

You made the students feel appreciated and respected. You brought clarity to a severely chaotic school. You were the MAN. I know the school district was better with you being a part of it. I respect that you were honest and weren't one to be "bought off".

We may never see each other again, but you did inspire me to be an honest team player and to strive for the greater good rather than my own personal ego. That means the world to me and has helped me become successful in my life. Thank you tremendously for the life lessons. Hopefully one of these days we will run into each in the morning at a convenience store and share stories over some hot dogs! God bless you and your family. And thank you again for being a beacon of awesomeness in my life.

Era: Mathis ISD Job: 1993 - 1997

Relationship: Marla and Paul's last Mathis High School class, 1997 was a fun and lively group of young people. Abie, a tough, competitive football player, was a great example of what we educators hope our students will be. Paul is grateful for Abie's appreciation of Paul's strong stands on behalf of students. This is a trait he has carried to every school district he has worked – and has often paid a price for his convictions. It is fine young people like Abie who make the effort worthwhile. It is special that he remembers Paul had a BIG like for convenience store hot dogs! Great memory! We keep up with Abie through his Facebook posts.