

Rebecca Snyder

At Greater Latrobe Senior High School, Rebecca Snyder chairs the language arts department and teaches a full range of literature and writing courses, from AP English to Film Media, Speech and Mythology. With her dynamic, dramatic teaching style and her determination to lead her students to twenty-first century success, Mrs. Snyder is one of the “paradigm shifters” she herself admires, a leader who creates ideas and who inspires her students and colleagues to follow her path. Her faith in the power of collaboration may have been forged in her own active family, where five girls and two boys thrived on their dad’s stories, especially his tales of school and his favorite teachers. Now Rebecca Snyder is herself a favorite teacher. As school board member and parent Heidi Kozar attests, “Rebecca personifies the type of teacher I wish all our students were exposed to. She pushes her students to expect more of themselves as writers and as people.”



Writing and literature are the tools Rebecca Snyder uses to involve her students in active learning. A firm believer in differentiated instruction, she also practices an interdisciplinary approach to her curriculum. She integrates painting, music, visual composition and design, architecture, history, social studies, and even dance into her daily lessons. Her own background in the performing arts infuses her teaching with a dramatic imperative, and each spring her talents are on display when the high school presents its musical. In school and community theater, in her piano teaching, indeed in all her endeavors, Rebecca Snyder is proud to bring young people, community volunteers and educators together in collaborative projects that champion hard work as well as talent.

Collaboration is a key concept that Rebecca Snyder carries into her role as department chairperson, where she instituted a collegiality program in place of a standard, “top down” management model. All department members share research, techniques and strategies as they work together on behalf of their students. If Rebecca Snyder is a teacher and leader who challenges others to perform at a high level, she expects no less of herself. In fact, she is known as “the hardest working woman in show biz,” when “show biz” is not just her musical productions but the sometimes messy and always exciting business of education.