

Dr. Richard Romenesko

Richard Romenesko has been a part of the Xavier community for most of his life. Rick graduated from St Pius X School in 1967. The next year he officially became a Hawk. While at Xavier High School, he thrived in sports, earning varsity letters four years in baseball, playing two years of football, and participating in track & field for two years. He also represented his class as a student councilman and was active in wind ensemble.

Following Xavier, Rick attended the University of Wisconsin Madison, majoring in bacteriology and gaining early admittance into the Marquette University School of Dentistry. He graduated as a Doctor of Dental Surgery in 1978.

While in dental school, Rick married his grade school sweetheart, Franki Baumann, (XHS '71). Upon graduation, Dr. Rick, Franki, and their newborn, Rick Jr. returned to Appleton where Dr. Rick opened his dental practice. Two more wonderful sons joined their family in 1980 and 1983.

The early 80's saw Dr. Rick elected to the St. Thomas More Board of Education and appointed to an all Appleton parish committee to study Catholic day school education, which created the Appleton Catholic Education System (ACES). He became the first layperson elected as President of the ACES Board and served on the board for many years. In addition, Dr. Rick and Franki became co-presidents of the St. Thomas More Home and School Association. Dr. Rick was honored by the National Catholic Education Association in Washington D.C. with the Distinguished Graduate Award.

In 1986, Dr. Rick became a coach of his son's soccer team and that began a long commitment to the Appleton Soccer Club. Dr. Rick served Appleton Youth Soccer for 20 years. In addition to coaching his sons' teams, he served on the Appleton Soccer Club Board of Directors and as Tournament Director. While on the Board, he started two competitive soccer tournaments. Dr. Rick also headed the committee that began the search for a soccer complex in Appleton. That led to the creation of the USA Youth Sports Complex and Dr. Rick served on its Board as well.

A family vacation in the early 90's jumpstarted another idea for Dr. Rick and Franki. While in California, they attended a Christmas program uniting Catholic parishes. Dr. Rick and Franki came home and discussed it with their dear friends, Jack and Linda Ourada, and Christmas Stars was born. They went on to serve on the steering committee for 10 years, guiding us to the wonderful program that exists today.

During that time, Dr. Rick's involvement at Xavier expanded into athletics when he became the head boys' varsity soccer coach. His leadership and commitment to the soccer program led to the formation of a JV boys' team and a girls' program at Xavier. Coach Romenesko enjoyed much success as a Xavier coach. His Xavier soccer teams won several conference titles and had three state semifinal appearances. His teams were ranked in the state polls several times and he was twice named the Post-Crescent All Area Coach of the Year. Very important to him is that several of his players went on to play Division I soccer. His overall record at Xavier was 181-61-21.

Dr. Rick's dedication to service and education has always seemed tireless to those who know him. As a recent graduate, he returned to Marquette to teach and later to mentor. At St. Thomas More, he served and then led the St. Thomas More Parish Picnic committee. He continues to volunteer his time

and services at Tri-County Dental Clinic, serving those in need and teaching dental students in clinical rotations.

Dr. Rick Romenesko is the proud father, father-in-law and grandfather of: Dr. Rick Jr (XHS '96) and Beth with David and Wally, Dr. Michael (XHS '99) and Dr. Callie with Max and Frankie, and Dr. Nicholas (XHS '02) and Dr. Rachel with Fiona. He has been a successful dentist in Appleton for 37 years and currently practices with his son, Dr. Michael, and shares a state of the art facility with his brother, Dr. Jeff (XHS '75), and Jeff's son, Ben (XHS '02).