

Meet the Teacher

Mr. Lopatka



Mr. Lopatka has been teaching life sciences at Edgewater High School for 25, years. He sponsors the EHS BETA Club; chairs the Scientific and Institutional Review Boards for the Dr. Nelson Ying Science Expo, and serves on the Florida State Science Fair Committee. Educational degrees include a BSE degree in Environmental Engineering with both Bachelor's/ Master's degrees in Biology. After receiving his Environmental Engineering degree from UCF, he partnered with in a local engineering firm where he designed environmental treatment facilities, conducted lake and soil assays, and prepared environmental impact assessments. Although the business atmosphere was tremendous, his passion for science and sharing this knowledge with students guided him into education.

Mr. Lopatka was formally the Continuing Education Director at the Orlando Science Center where he set up and conducted numerous workshops for teachers, and children's summer programs. He was an adjunct professor at VCC for 8, years and currently teaches classes at UCF. Mr. Lopatka is a judging captain for both the Regional and State Science and Engineering Fairs has guided over 20, international study expeditions, presented at State, National and International conferences, and authored 14, books. Among these books is a best seller, "The AP Environmental Science Study Guide". Mr. Lopatka writes for major textbook companies and periodicals as well. Among his numerous awards he was presented with the National Science and Technology Teacher of the Year and received the honor of Florida Environmental Teacher of the Year.

After school and as a weekend/summer/holiday warrior and adrenaline junkie he is an avid, surfer, kayaker (especially whitewater), SCUBA diver (instructor level), snowboarder, wake boarder, baseball coach (Babe Ruth), and climber. To mellow out he enjoys reading, swimming, listening to music, spending time with family, and working out at the "Y". Of the most important things in life to Mr. Lopatka are his family, and his students. His philosophy in education is to treat his students as though they were his own children, to prepare them to be responsible citizens, successful in careers, and to live a contented and wholesome life.

"Life is an adventure and we are its explorers" Michael I. Lopatka