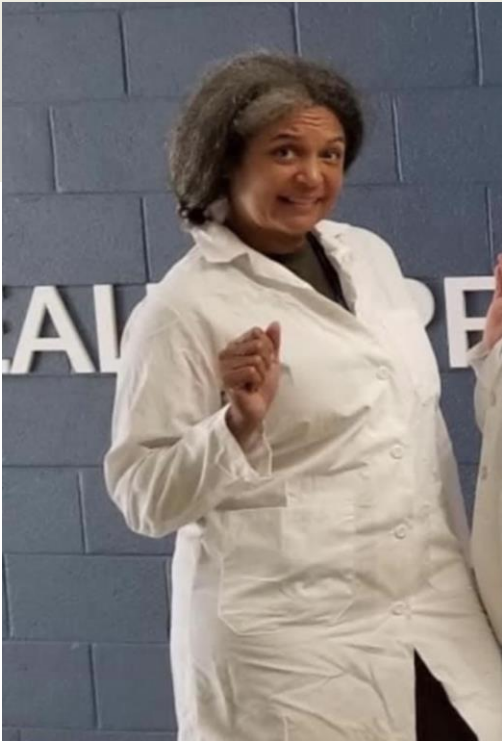


INSIDE THE DEN

SPECIAL TRIBUTE TO MS. HAMMOND



Largo High School science teacher, Stephanie Hammond, passed away April 2021.



Ms. Hammond (left) pictured with the swim team which she coached for several years.

Celebrating the Life of Stephanie Hammond

AMARI WILKERSON

When the word Amazing comes to mind you automatically think of our beloved Mrs. Hammond. From working at Largo for years to just being a friend she was always there for you. Making sure you made it to class on time and even offering help when you need it the most. Even though you could always hear her a mile away she would always make you smile.

From tutoring after school to creating the best science experiments in class, no one can express how much she will be missed. There was never a day where you didn't see her smiling and walking down the halls of Largo.

"In the 9th grade she continuously helped me with my science project so I wouldn't be confused and I appreciated everything she did for me"-Jesse Barnes, Largo High School Alumni.

"Mrs. Hammond was a very nice teacher who cared about her students and she will be missed."- Simone Cox, Largo High School Senior.

Our Fallen Lion

ZAMARYAH MARSHALL

Over spring break 2021, Largo High School was hit with incredibly sad news. Science department teacher, Ms. Hammond has sadly passed away and the news has shaken everyone.

Ms. Hammond was a very amazing teacher who was very hardworking. She tried her best to be the best she could be and for that, the Largo community will forever be grateful. She was at Largo for more than 20 years and we will forever cherish her time and energy she put into her work and students.

Multiple students had very positive things to say about Ms. Hammond and that brings joy to know that she will be remembered for such positive reasons. I have never had Ms. Hammond as a teacher but I surely will remember seeing her across the hallway smiling. I remember during green club; I'd be tasked to water the plants in her classroom. Whenever I would go in, she'd be so sweet and she always took phenomenal care of her plant. The green club and I have always appreciated Ms. Hammond.

When asked, former student, Assata Evans, mentioned that Ms. Hammond was a very caring and nice person. "She had a sense of humor like no other. Ms. Hammond was the most helpful person and always dedicated to making sure her students got to where they needed to be." Another student, Idayat Adetoro, who Ms. Hammond taught during freshman year, says Ms. Hammond was always caring and you could always depend on her.

Largo High School will forever cherish Ms. Hammond and we are glad that she does not have to face the evil world anymore. Everything she did for us will never go unnoticed. The Largo Community will always keep her name alive. Forever in our hearts, we will not forget about you, rest peacefully our angel.

IN THIS ISSUE

TRIBUTE

Largo Loses a Lioness

Ms. Hammond, you will be missed.

KHALIL BUCKNOR

Ms. Hammond, where do we start? She was a very motivating and supporting teacher. This woman was very dedicated to her work as a teacher, and wanting to help all of her students succeed.

Although she was hard on students at times, she meant well and only wanted the best for her students. Ms. Hammond even spent extra time out of her day to coach largo's swim team. She was very passionate about coaching; in the same way she was regarding teaching. Many students described her as "determined, dedicated, hardworking, encouraging and etc."

When many students found out the news of her passing on the 3rd of April, it shook many students and faculty members; you never expect something like this to happen until it does. We never thought that we would be losing and saying goodbye to another lion. This incredible woman loved to share her knowledge of science to her fellow students. I spoke to a student who doesn't want to be named, and shared that Ms. Hammond once told her "you're brighter than a star, the moon, and the sun, as long as you keep shining you'll get through whatever." That quote really stuck with him, and hearing the news of her death really struck home.

Ms. Hammond will truly be missed among the Largo High School community, and we want to send prayers to her family and friends. We love you Ms. Hammond, and continue to roar on up above.



Ms. Stephanie Hammond

A Tribute to Ms. Hammond

AKASYA SMITH

Dear Ms. Hammond,

Thank you for all you have done for me, and the rest of the largo staff and students.

You have brought so many good things into largo and you will be missed. We all appreciate everything you taught us and helped us with in our years at largo. You have been there with us since 9th grade, watched us grow and helped us along our way to where we are now. Thank you again and rest peacefully.

Farewell Our Lion

CONTEES WEST

It is sad to say we have recently lost a key member in our Lion's Den. Recently, Ms. Hammond a science teacher at Largo High School has passed away and it is only right that we send her off with some kind words and memories. I never had Ms. Hammond's class but I have relatives that have and from what I have gathered from her letting my cousin sit in her class room during lunch because she didn't have any friends in the beginning of freshmen year and being nice to my sister when she was going through a rough time. She was a very nice and caring person. She made school just a little bit kinder by always having a smile on her face and greeting everybody. Ms. Hammond will always be a part of Largo and she will be deeply missed.

TRIBUTE

A Tribute to Ms. Hammond, Our Fallen Lion

FATIMA BUNDU

On Wednesday, April 7, 2021, teachers revealed the news that Ms. Hammond, a science teacher at Largo High school, had passed away from unvoiced causes. Many students knew Ms. Hammond as more than just a teacher. She touched many with her caring spirit, headstrong attitude, and the kindness she always showed.

As a student that had Ms. Hammond as an environmental science teacher, I can say that she was one of the kindest people I have ever met. Every time I had her class, she was always in high spirits. She always had a positive attitude and I can't remember the last time she didn't. Every time I ever had a question for her, she would answer every single aspect of my question and make sure I understood. She was more than a teacher. She was a listener, a problem solver, a science-lover, but above all she was a teacher. She always loved to challenge us to do our best and to take our limits higher. She was also a teacher that knew what we could and couldn't handle as a class. The last day I ever spoke to her, I never would have imagined that would be the last time. The last time I would ever hear her speak, the last time I would ever have her class, the last time I would ever see her for the rest of my life.

Ms. Hammond, I just wanted to say that I hope you're alright up there. Rest in Peace. The Largo family will forever miss you. To Ms. Hammond's family, I am so sorry for your loss. We will all continue to mourn the loss of Ms. Hammond.

TRIBUTE

She Was Family, My Family, Our Family

JAJUAN HALL

Stephanie Hammond, a science teacher at Largo High School for twenty-seven years, has sadly passed away. Throughout the years, Ms. Hammond was a part of a tight-knit group known as the science department where her role consisted of teaching and influencing the young minds within Largo High School.

On Wednesday, April 17, 2021, Largo announced that the beloved science teacher, Ms. Hammond had passed away. Ms. Hammond was known as a calm and soft spoken person to her students and colleagues. She was a part of the Largo Family for twenty-seven amazing years, and those years will never be forgotten. Throughout her tenure, she taught several subjects including biology and environmental science. She also served as a swim coach and ACT coordinator for the young men and women at Largo. When asked about her beloved colleague, Ms. Cuadera said it best, "Ms. Hammond did everything she could for this school. She was supportive of everything that needed to be done within this school. At Largo we are a family, she is family, and she will be deeply missed." Ms. Hammond's passion and knowledge for science, as well as her love for Largo will be missed for many years to come. She will not only be remembered as a lion, she will be remembered as a mentor, a teammate, and a friend. Forever.

orever.

It is with great sadness that I inform you of the passing of Ms. Hammond, our beloved Science teacher. For over 27 years, Ms. Hammond served as a dedicated educator to the Largo High School community. Whether experiencing her quiet demeanor during casual conversations with colleague or compassionate interactions with students, her presence could be felt throughout the building. Ms. Hammond served as a swim coach and ACT coordinator while at Largo and influenced many young minds. Her passion and knowledge for science, as well as her love for Largo will be missed for many years to come. Ms. Hammond will forever be a memorable LIONESSE in the DEN.

Reactions to this incident may vary for all of us. As well as sadness, there may be feelings of anger, frustration, helplessness, or even guilt. A team of professional school counselors, administrators, and school psychologists will be available for any students who feel they would like to talk to someone.

Letter, pictured above, released to students about the passing of Largo High School teacher, Stephanie Hammond.

TRIBUTE

Tribute To A Legend, Ms. Hammond

PETRA OKOYE

Teachers are God's gift to students; without teachers and students there will be no progress, no future to dream for. Today we pay tribute to our beloved science teacher Ms. Hammond which we will never forget and whose impact will remain with us forever.

Ms. Hammond was that teacher who could brighten your day, she shared smiles to every child on the hallway and was very friendly, she was dedicated to her job and helped students beat their fear of science. She was indeed an inspiration to us all and a great teacher, she taught her students a special way to balance at times when our attitude got out of control. She was far more than a teacher she was a mentor and a

TRIBUTE

Our Dear Ms. Hammond

JADE BARNES

Stephanie Thomas Hammond known to largo as Ms. Hammond was a science teacher and swim coach. When walking through the science vestibule in largo high school Ms. Hammonds class was the first class room to the right. And always the quietest classroom in the science departments hallway.

Though i personally did not take Ms. Hammonds class students attest to her

friend.

Ms. Hammond helped us young students to mature and get ready for what the world was going to throw at us. A great mom she was to her daughter too and was dedicated to the swim team too often running from PGCC still wet, she remained determined to give herself to the students and her family.

I am truly saddened by her passing but heaven has gained an Angel who's smile and sense of humor will brighten the sky's for a lifetime. Rest well our Heroine "Gone too soon". Rest well Queen.

TRIBUTE

Largo's Fallen Lion: Ms. Stephanie Hammond

NYA EPPS

"She was just a cheery and helpful lady" says Keith Vaughn, a senior at Largo HS. "She remained steadfast in her teaching" he continues, "despite challenges due to her illness." Vaughn reminisces on his experience with the late Ms. Stephanie Hammond who he says he had in 9th grade. Vaughn is one of the many students to mourn over the loss of the dedicated educator.

Unfortunately, one of Largo's beloved educators, Ms. Stephanie Hammond, has passed away. On Friday, April 2, 2021, the Largo Family lost Hammond and now share their grief with Hammond's family. However, students also celebrate and remember her as a woman who persevered with her teaching.

Ms. Hammond was a science teacher in the science department who taught many different aspects of the subject. Aderemi Cole, another senior at Largo, says, "I had Ms. Hammond for environmental science. She was a very quiet person but she was also the type to give a full explanation in class and follow up if you needed help with whatever she assigns." Vaughn also explains obstacles Hammond had to face with

being "very sweet always and never got mad at anyone. "Even students that no longer take her class say she always treated them with kindness in respect. Ms. Hammond will always be remembered for the way she always offered to help if someone had trouble and being a kind spirit.

Our fallen Lion Ms. Hammond will always be remembered in our hearts. Her classroom may have been the quietest, but her presence will be remembered as the loudest.

some students, highlighting her strength and dedication by stating, "Some students took advantage of her quietness, but overall, she remained a cheery woman. I applaud her courage for staying here at Largo as a teacher."

I would also like to recognize that, concluding Women's History Month, Hammond's passion tops all icons. For Hammond to push through her obstacles for the sake of the education of the youth, especially during these trying times in the education system, I would like to highlight Ms. Stephanie Hammond as a prime example of a strong and educated woman.

I would like to send my genuine condolences and prayers to Hammond's friends and family. Loss of a loved one, especially one as apparently bright as Hammond, is not to be taken lightly. Though I do not know her personally, I genuinely believe that I would have appreciated her on a deeper level as my educator.

TRIBUTE

A Letter To Ms. Hammond

JONATHAN BROWN

Dear Ms. Hammond,

I know you passed away recently, but maybe someone else reading this will do what I didn't, before it's too late for him or her. I want you to know what a difference you made in my life and to say thanks.

When you taught me general science at Largo High School, you awakened a curiosity in me to learn about everything in my universe—not just the things in general science but everything, everywhere. My constant question was and still is, "Why?" I know I drove my father mad sometimes,

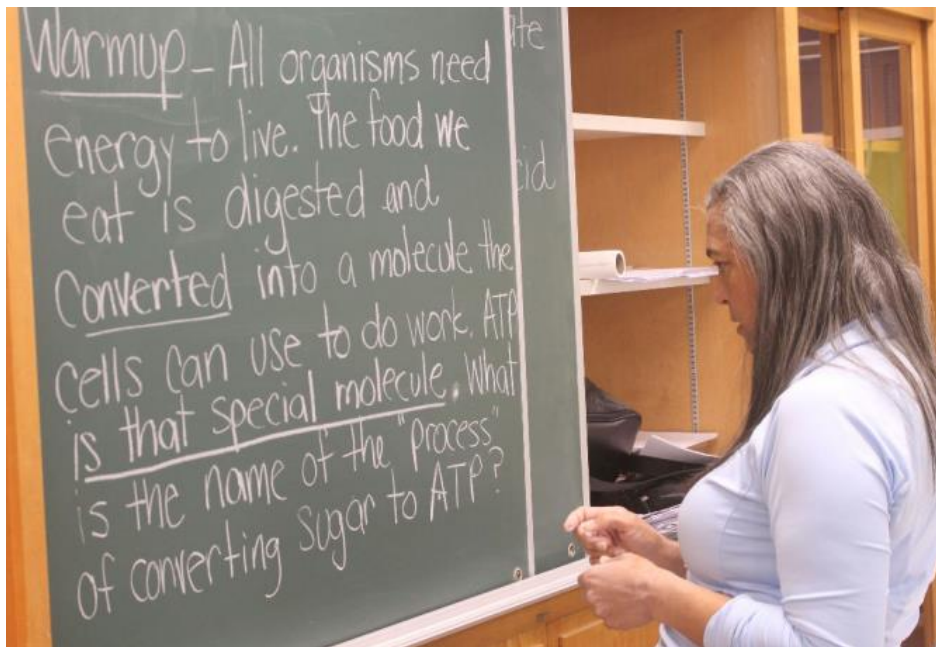
especially when he was doing some household chore or car repair, with my constant questions. What's that? What is it used for? Why doesn't it work that way? Why, why, why? He would get so tired of answering my questions that he would need a break and say to me, "Go in the house, Jonathan!"

The only things I can recall now from your class are how to identify the different types of clouds and the elements in the periodic table. It wasn't the content of the lessons but the inspiration—to question, to be curious, and to look at problems as challenges to be solved—that has served me so well over the years.

When I look at the sky and point to a cloud formation, informing anyone around that those are such and such clouds, I can see their eyes glaze over. But occasionally, one of my friends will catch the spark and ask, "How do you know that?" I say, "I had a teacher."

Sincerely,

Jonathan Brown



Ms. Hammond preparing her science lesson.

TRIBUTE

In Honor of Our Fallen Angel

We lost a great one but he gained an angel.

TANISHA RUCKER

Dear Ms. Hammond,

Personally I never had your class but I did always see you around school and always hear how good of a teacher you were. I wish I could have experienced how kind and loving you were. Ms. Hammond was a great ACT coordinator and an amazing teacher/ swim coach and influenced many young minds at Largo and never let us down.

Knowing she was at Largo for over 20 years and knowing how much the Largo staff and students cherished her and her presence. She was a strong part of Largo High school. She helped the school in so many ways more than we even realize.

Ms. Hammond you will truly be missed at Largo High School.

TRIBUTE

A Letter to Ms. Hammond

ANIAYA LONGUS

Dear our lovely angel Ms. Hammond,

The Largo High School family as we share our love, thoughts and prayers are with you and your entire family. As always, we are blown away by your amazing spirit and strength. When I think of Ms. Hammond, I remember how much she loved exploring the world of science, and how much she loves her students. When you combine the facts that Ms. Hammond was a compassionate soul and willing to take risks, it's not difficult to understand why she ventured out when she gets to explore the heavenly gates. I think that the loss of one's mother, a sister, and more as someone who has molded and pushed us to be a

better person is by far the saddest event of anyone's lifetime.

There is just no other loss that measures up to this one. But knowing you were a loving teacher and mentor we know that she wouldn't want us sitting around grieving but rather celebrating the wonderful life she led. I'm sure she had few regrets in living the full and successful life that she did. We join in with everyone who knew Ms. Hammond in wishing you peace and comfort as you face this very sad time. Our thoughts and prayers are with you and your wonderful family. Let's celebrate the wonderful life of our beloved Largo Lion Ms. Hammond and always remember she will be with us until the end and in our hearts. In closing, and I hope they leave you with the message that time will heal our wounds.



TRIBUTE

Remembering Ms. Hammond

DAKOTA HAWKINS

After hearing the news about the death of one of my beloved teachers, my heart was broken! However, all I could think about was the great times we had. Ms. Hammond was one of my favorite freshman teachers. She taught me Biology during my 5th period. Even though I had only had her for one year, she made a tremendous impact on my life. She encouraged me to learn and always want to do better.

I admired and valued what Ms. Hammond did for a living. She took the time to get to know her students. Based on her desire to want to teach us, I believed she didn't just come to work to get a paycheck. She wanted us to learn.

I remember while she was teaching class, she walked around the class to make sure each student understood what she was teaching. Before having Ms. Hammond as a teacher, I would get nervous about a teacher walking around the class and specially looking over my shoulder.

Biology was a subject I struggled with, so her walking around the class checking on her students was helpful. If I didn't understand or know something, she made me feel comfortable when I asked a question.

Most importantly, she made the subject of Biology fun and interesting. Honestly, I often stayed after class to ask questions about a lesson she may have just taught. That was something I would not have done in the past. Ms. Hammond was always willing to help and explain topics even if you weren't one of her students. During my sophomore year she would offer to help me if I didn't understand something from my Biogeochemical Systems class.

Overall, Ms. Hammond was one of the greatest teachers and people! She will be truly missed!

Our Beloved Lion, Ms. Hammond	Remembering Ms. Hammond	A Tribute to Our Fallen Lion
LAWRENICA OPPONG-BOATENG	MARQUEZ NATTA	JADA JOHN
<p>Dear Ms. Hammond,</p> <p>Just recently you have passed. And when I say your passing was a shock, it really in fact was. I never personally knew you or had your class, but I would greet you sometimes with my friends, your former classmates, during Freshman year. From my previous conversations with one of your former classmates at the time, she really loved you and valued you as a teacher; this thought makes me happy. Even though we never had a relationship, I never expected you to pass so soon. From my observation you were a good teacher, and a great leader and hand in the Science department. We all have our time and unfortunately, yours was too soon. Even though you are gone, you're resting now, which is a great feeling. Your name will never be forgotten in the Den nor all that you've done. Thank you for being a pivotal part of Largo High School.</p>	<p>On Saturday, April 3rd, 2021, Largo High School was shocked at the news of the passing of another Largo Lion. Ms. Stephanie Hammond, a long time teacher at Largo, sadly has passed away. As said by many former students of hers, "She was a great teacher who not only for her work, but also her students." Ms. Hammond taught science classes, such as Biology.</p> <p>Some former students were asked about Ms. Hammond and who she was as a person. One student stated, "She would always try to help, even if I didn't get it the first four times, she would still help." When another student was asked, he said "She was very detailed with her teaching, so there was not much you could miss. She will be very missed." Just from these two students' perspectives, I can tell that Ms. Hammond loved her job and loved her students even more.</p>	<p>On Tuesday, April 6, 2021, Largo Highschool received the sad news that our beloved science teacher, Ms. Hammond had sorrowfully passed away. For more than 27 years, Ms. Hammond served as a sweet and dedicated educator to the Largo Highschool community. Though most people have experienced her quiet personality during casual conversations with students, her presence could be felt throughout the building.</p> <p>Ms. Hammond was calm and quiet but she always taught all of her students very positively and well. She was very caring and helpful. Ms. Hammond also served as a swim coach and ACT coordinator while with us at Largo Highschool. Whenever a student needed help or assistance, she would always be willing to help with no problem. She definitely loved teaching at Largo, she enjoyed being a Lion.</p> <p>Ms. Hammond influenced so many young minds. Her passion and knowledge for science, as well as her love for Largo will be missed for many years to come. Ms. Hammond will forever be a memorable LION in the DEN. She will be missed very dearly.</p>