



**HOMESTEAD  
HIGH SCHOOL**

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# James Drake

*Spanish teacher*



*“Dreams may happen when we sleep, but when we are awake, they happen only through hard work, passion, and perseverance.”*

## Education:

*Master’s (MA)  
Latin American Studies  
University of Kansas (Lawrence):  
1999*

*Bachelor’s (BA)  
Spanish and history  
Indiana University-Purdue University Fort Wayne:  
1996*



## About Mr. Drake:

I am a husband and father of four beautiful children. I was born in Fort Wayne, I attended North Side High School, and I graduated from IPFW, when I then went on to Lawrence, Kansas, to pursue my master’s degree.

When I was 30 years old, I taught myself how to play the guitar and soon I began writing songs. My band, The Murmurations, plays my original songs in the genre of alternative rock (in English).

I am also active in my faith community — come2go Ministries.

## Relevant Experience:

I have taught Spanish for 21 years — 14 at the high school level (Northrop and Carroll High Schools) and seven at the university level (Purdue Fort Wayne and the University of Kansas).

To inform my teaching, I have studied in Nicaragua, I have completed a project in Cuba, and I have traveled in Spain, Costa Rica, Mexico, and the Dominican Republic.

## Why do I teach?

I didn’t choose teaching — teaching chose me.

In the summer of 1993, a friend gave me a copy of Ernest Hemingway’s “The Sun Also Rises,” which is set in Spain. Upon reading the work, I thought, “I want to do this!” I want to inspire students to acquire the Spanish language the way Ernest Hemingway inspired me to do so.

Furthermore, in 2019, it is essential to be able to connect with people, in other cultures and places, and with people right here in the USA.