

Guidance counselor named Employee of Month

HAVERTHILL -- He wanted to be a guidance counselor since he was in middle school, where he was inspired by his own counselor. Garry James, a guidance counselor at Whittier Vo-Tech for 8 years, has been named Employee of the Month for October.



“I was surprised,” he said. “I wasn’t expecting an award for just doing my job.”

Mr. James is responsible for the Class of 2010, this year’s seniors, who can be a demanding group. Many of them are at his door these days asking for help with college applications, recommendations and advice about their futures.

“It’s hard to keep everyone happy,” he said. “There never seems to be enough time in the day.”

He said he gets to know every senior, and loves his interactions with them. He is also a senior class advisor and can be seen in the halls calling out to students by name, and sharing a joke or smile. “I’m very kid-centered,” he said. “And teenagers need to know they have someone they can talk to.”

Before he came to work at Whittier, Mr. James was a therapist at a psychiatric hospital in Saugus and also worked in a hospital emergency room.

As employee of the month, Mr. James received gift certificates to the school restaurant and stores and preferred parking for the month.