

Charlotte WEEKLY

ABOUT THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

Queen City hosts
tennis kings

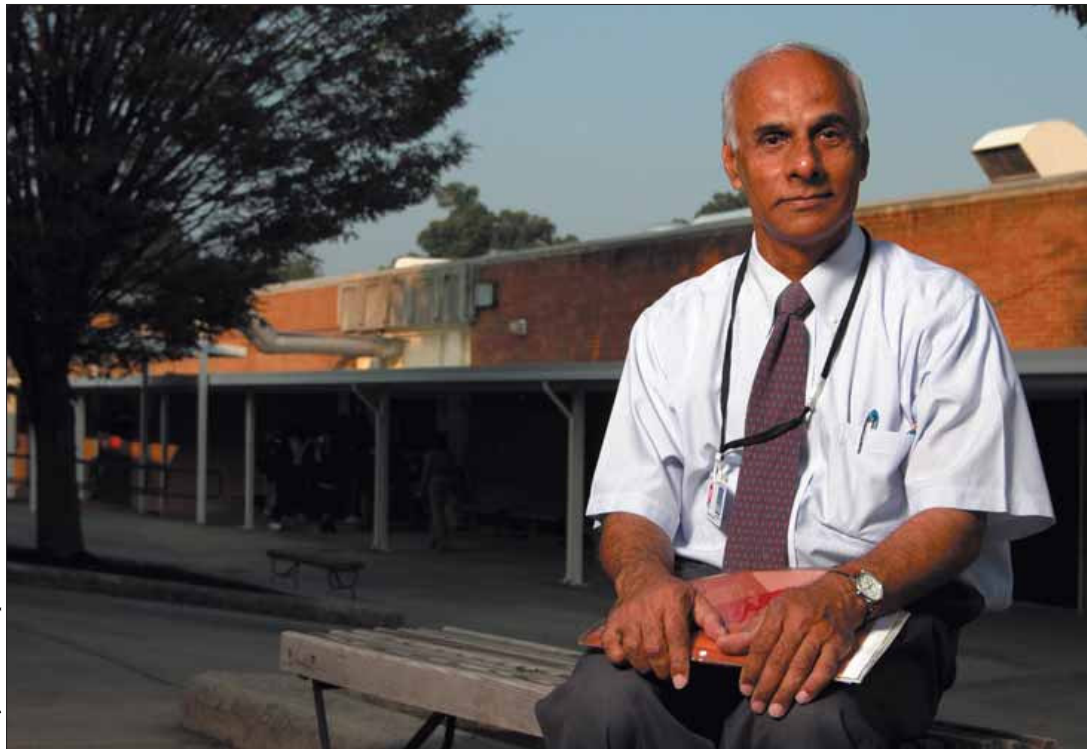


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Bobby Cochran/CW photos

Kalahasti Ramesh balances wisdom and encouraging words in his math and science classes at Midwood High School.

Building others, building dreams

An alternative high school's motto is personal credo of one of its most respected teachers

by Alison Woo
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From the glimmer in the eyes of the seated students, it's clear: Serious learning takes place here. The dynamic interchange between the teacher and those who are being taught is thrilling.

In this classroom at Midwood High School, an alternative school in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools system, passion is palpable. As these students calculate the diameters and radii of circles, what's evident in the classroom formula is the students' enormous respect for and rapport with the spry scholar who balances every math equation with equal doses of caring and commitment.

"The more I teach, the more I learn," said Kalahasti Ramesh, an international

scholar who is devoting this phase of his life to his pupils.

Legacy of learning

Ramesh could easily be called a Renaissance man. Born in India and educated in India, the U.K., Japan and the United States, Ramesh has a master's degree in science education and a doctorate in engineering. His efforts in science and mathematics have led him to work with NASA, the U.S. Department of Energy, General Motors and prominent labs working on cutting-edge technology. His interest in humanities inspired him to work with Mother Teresa in India and to correspond with the Dalai Lama, who writes him back. Ramesh's interest in

what motivates behavior instigated his idea to teach emotional intelligence seminars to global corporations long before it became popular. And his lifelong love of learning led him to lecture at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Harvard University, the U.S. Library of Congress and now here in Charlotte.

Warmer weather motivated Ramesh, his wife, Atsumi, and their sons, Siva and Arjun, to leave his post at Wisconsin's Carthage University and move to the Queen City 18 months ago. "I had given lectures in the region, at UNC Charlotte and Chapel Hill, and was impressed by what the city had to offer," he said. Now it's those who work with him who are impressed.

Midwood High School's principal, Jametta Martin-Tanner, said it's not just Ramesh's accomplishments but also his attitude that makes him stand out. "He could teach anywhere he wants," she said. "Most people shy away from alternative schools, but not him." Martin-
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