

# Hortonville Area School District

## Staff Recognition Program



2023-2024

*Teamwork makes the HASD dream work!*



# Program

5:00 PM	Social Time
5:55 PM	Dinner Prayer
	Janna Cochran
6:00 PM	Dinner
6:45 PM	Door Prizes
7:30 PM	Awards
8:00 PM	Social Time

*Special Performance:*  
*HASBand*



## HONOREES

### 5 YEARS

Tracy Brunn  
Todd Davis  
Melanie Dementer  
Michelle Driessen  
Kathleen Ebbens  
Samuel Engelland  
Robin Fannin  
Jill Froze  
Samantha Garrow  
Hollie Holtebeck  
Barbara Hopfensperger  
Maria Jacobs  
Cassandra Jensen  
Tessa Keller  
Terressa Leinon  
Melissa Lola  
Amanda Muthig  
Lindsey Norton  
Charles Olson  
Amber Rentmeester  
Cambria Roberts  
Heather Ryan  
Melissa Schreiter  
Kacie Searl  
Liza Thies  
Jill Truymen  
Beth Ubl  
Brianna VandeWettering  
Kathleen Ver Voort  
Courtney Wallace  
Lori Yonts  
Robert Zalewski

### 5.5 Years

Kristi Gorges  
Amanda Granato

### 10 Years

Tanya Arps  
Jennifer Bauer  
Catherine Bundy

### 10 YEARS CON.

Kayla Cooley  
Paul Everett  
Andrea Glad  
Abby Huettl  
Jessica Kernen  
Laura Kuether  
Alyson Newhouse  
Carmen O'Brien  
Dana Ramshak  
Jennifer Strong  
Jessica Timm  
Mary Wilke  
Samantha Wyngaard

### 15 YEARS

Rachel Galloway  
Daniel Milliren  
Kari Morrison  
Lindsay Schmitt  
Michelle Smith  
Betty Wihongi

### 15.5 YEARS

Brian Bahr

### 20 YEARS

Susan Blakewell  
Kristine Compton  
David Harris  
Sharon Julius  
Benjamin Schmitt  
Lori Whitman

### 25 YEARS

Laurie Behnke  
Jenny Cornell  
Mary Koleske  
Patrick Koss  
Kim Meyer  
Patty Reimer  
Scott Resch  
Tom Riedasch

### 25 YEARS CON.

Kay Schmidt  
Andrew Schweitzer  
Anne Walker

### 30 YEARS

Tanya Lynaugh  
Mark Reinemann  
Michael Sommers  
Wendy Sontag

### 35+ YEARS

Sara McMorrow - 35  
Kathy Paltzer - 40  
Cheryl Bergmann - 45.5



**Education is a TEAM effort!**

***Congratulations Honorees!***

## RETIREES

*Brenda Bergmann – 42 Years*

*Cecilia Besaw – 32 Years*

*Dawn De Guelle – 32 Years*

*Cherie Krynock – 34 Years*

*Michael Paltzer – 33 Years*

*Denise Parry – 26 Years*

*Anita Rhone – 31 Years*

*David Schlichting – 12 Years*

*Michael Sommers – 30 Years*

*Donna Van – 10 Years*

*Anne Walker – 25 Years*

*Nancy Willenkamp – 52 Years*

*Robert Zalewski – 5 Years*



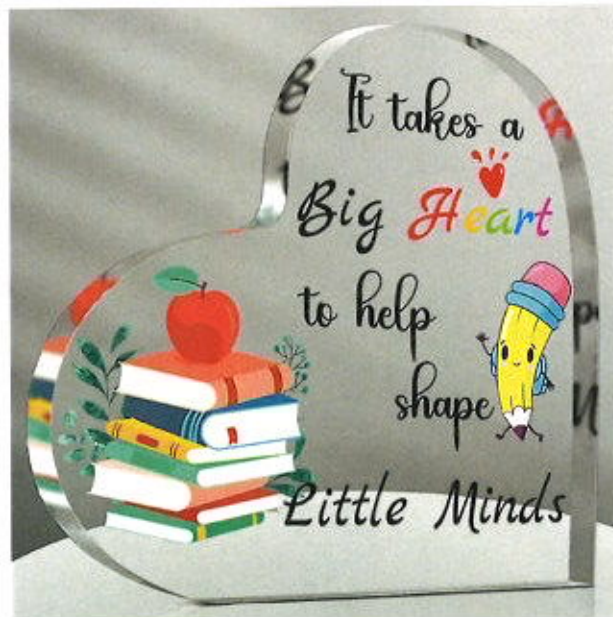
*Often when you think you're at  
the end of something, you're at  
the beginning of something else.  
Enjoy your retirement!*



*“A Substitutes is .... Someone understanding, being steady through illness, trials, and the unexpected, while teaching, helping, and encouraging our students.”*

To all our Substitutes that have dedicated their time for 10 or more years here in the Hortonville Area School District, we **Thank You** for your support and dedication.

Garry Beck  
Danielle Buchman  
An Gehrmann  
Jennifer Hardy  
Mary Lynn Hermus  
Kathleen Kiger  
Karen Martin  
Linda Montonati  
Jeremy Ott  
Lorrie Patri  
Beth Schneider  
Sheri Searl  
Jennifer Tousey  
Lisa Zdrazil



**Hortonville Area School District**  
**Board of Education**

President – Robert VanDenElzen  
Vice President – Dana Ramshak  
Treasurer – Andrea Marcks-Ziegler  
Clerk – Brett Eidahl  
Craig Dreier  
Jessica Hartjes  
Douglas Ellerman

District Administrator – Mr. Todd Timm

*On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you, honorees, and retirees, for your years of service and dedication in the Hortonville Area School District.*

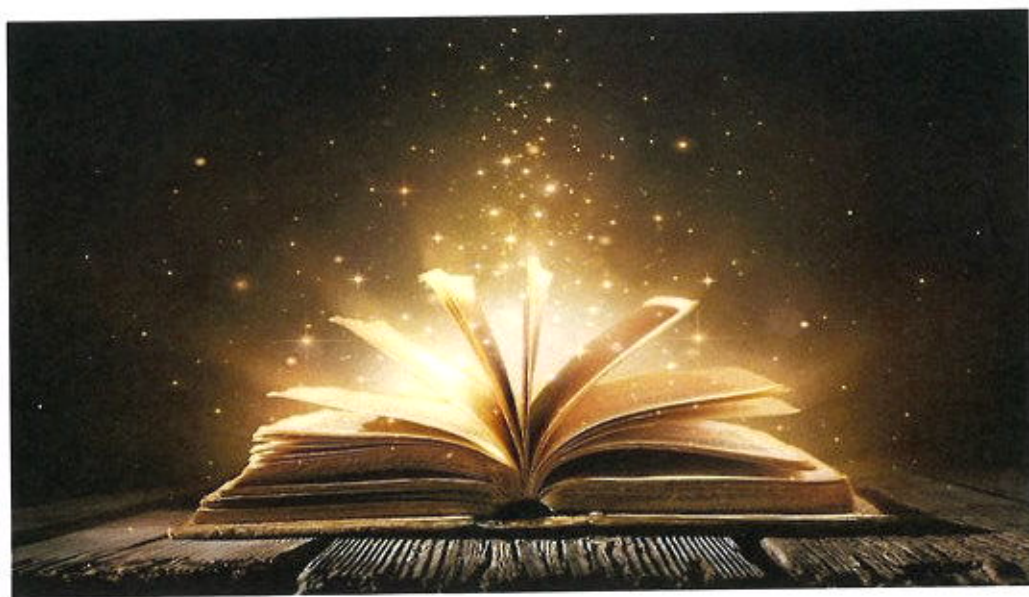


*HASD Mission Statement:*  
*“Our District ensures every student learns at the highest level.”*

# *Book Selections from the Retirees:*

*“There is more treasure in books than in all  
the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”*

*Walt Disney*





## *Mental Floss: The Curious Compendium of Wonderful Words*

By:  
Erin McCarthy

### *Dedicated in Honor of Brenda Bergmann*

*On November 1, 1982, I started working for the Hortonville Area School District as a Kindergarten aide. After working one year in the District's three Kindergarten classrooms, I worked as a high school library aide for the next nine years. I then transferred to the Payroll Coordinator position and processed payroll and maintained employee benefits for sixteen years. In September 2008, I moved into my current position as Business Services Assistant, completing another sixteen years with the District. I am officially retiring on July 31, 2024 after 42 total years with the District.*

*The book I chose was Mental Floss: The Curious Compendium of Wonderful Words. I found it to be a fun and interesting collection of the origin of words and phrases. I've always been a bit competitive when it comes to games and puzzles so I've found that what others may view as "useless" information, can actually come in handy at times!*

*I hope you enjoy paging through this book and discovering fun facts about how our language has changed throughout history.*

***Brenda Bergmann***  
***June 2024***  
***Hortonville Area School District***  
***Business Services Assistant***  
***1982 - 2024***





## *My Magical Words*

By:  
Becky Cummings

### *Dedicated in Honor of Cecilia Besaw*

*I have had the great opportunity to teach second grade, first grade, and kindergarten for the last 32 years at Hortonville Elementary School. I have seen former students chase their dreams and become incredibly successful and happy adults! As you go through life, believe in yourself. You can be anything you believe. You are special, you are kind, you are smart, you are loved, you are strong, and you are beautiful! May all your dreams come true; the magic is in you! Love,*

***Cecilia Besaw***

***June 2024***

***Hortonville Elementary School***

***Kindergarten Teacher***

***1992 - 2024***



## Three Hens and a Peacock

By:

Lester Laminack

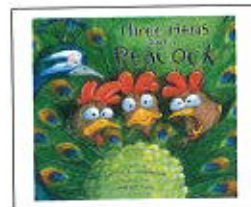
### *Dedicated in Honor of Dawn De Guelle*



Throughout my teaching career I have learned so much information from authors and researchers. It has been a great journey of learning how students read and how to teach children to be successful readers and writers.

One author that I am deeply grateful for is Lester Laminack.

As a first-grade teacher in 2014... we read *Three Hens and a Peacock*.



The Tuckers' farm is a peaceful place where everyone has a job, and no one complains. That is, until a peacock falls off the back of a passing truck and stirs things up. Soon, customers are flocking to the farm to see what all the fuss is about. But the hens don't like the newcomer getting attention while they do all the hard work. When a wise old hound sees the problem, he helps figure out a job swap.

The first-grade students had such joy writing sequels to this story, and we waited (patiently) for Lester to continue the story. This book is in all our elementary libraries and is a joy to read.

Then in 2023...

Lester Laminack returned with a funny sequel to the *Three Hens and a Peacock*. This time the animals decide to work together to rescue an enormous egg that falls from a truck in the road in front of their farm. Working together is, however, not without challenges when three bossy hens are involved.

The animals have no idea what is in the egg and have never seen one so big. But in trying to protect it and hatch it, they find themselves quite smitten with it, each imagining that what's in the egg is a version of themselves.

In the end we learn who among us is the greatest nurturer of all and the lesson that working together is always better than working alone. (No matter how bossy some of us may be.) So, my book choice is *Three Hens, a Peacock, and the Enormous Egg* by Lester Laminack.



Enjoy reading the sequel and continue to learn and work together to nurture those who are in front of us.

Photo permission Lester Laminack. 2024

Dawn De Guelle

June 2024

Hortonville Elementary School

Literacy Coordinator (Coach & Teacher)

1992 - 2024



## **Incredible Journey**

By:  
Sheila Burnford

### ***Dedicated in Honor of Cherie Krynock***

*Like the animals in the classic novel, The Incredible Journey by Sheila Burnford, my journey as a special education instructor at Hortonville Middle School has been a truly amazing adventure with many twists and turns. The theme of the book often parallels my days in the Hortonville Area School District... days filled with perseverance, teamwork, and friendships made. As I reflect on my career, thirty-four years have come and gone in the blink of an eye. As I now come full circle like the animals in The Incredible Journey, the beginning of my career is now the closing leading to a new chapter in my book. My hope is that the chapters I have written in my book during my years at Hortonville Middle School have, in some small way, made a difference in the lives of my students and this district. I end with a quote from The Incredible Journey, "The journey may be long, but the destination is always worth it!"*

**Cherie Krynock**  
**June 2024**  
**Hortonville Middle School**  
**Special Education Teacher**  
**1990 - 2024**





## *Two Truths and a Lie* *Histories and Mysteries*

By:

Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

### *Dedicated in Honor of* *Michael Paltzer*

*Hello! I am very glad that you have chose this book. If you enjoy it, there are two more like it on different topics you may want to check out. My name is Mr. Michael Paltzer and I taught science for over 30 years, most of them here at GMS. I chose these books for your library because they cover some of my favorite topics (science and history) and help you learn an important skill along the way.*

*These days we are bombarded with information, but a lot of it is not true! People with agendas put out very realistic – but false information to try to get you to believe something they want you to. These books will help you to learn how to separate fact from fiction, and to build that important skill of thinking for yourself and checking facts. I hope you enjoy this book!*

**Michael Paltzer**

**June 2023**

**Hortonville Area School District**

**Science Teacher – Greenville Middle School**

**1995 - 2023**





## *Two Truths and a Lie*

### *Forces of Nature*

By:

Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

### *Dedicated in Honor of Michael Paltzer*

*Hello! I am very glad that you have chose this book. If you enjoy it, there are two more like it on different topics you may want to check out. My name is Mr. Michael Paltzer and I taught science for over 30 years, most of them here at GMS. I chose these books for your library because they cover some of my favorite topics (science and history) and help you learn an important skill along the way.*

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**Michael Paltzer**

**June 2023**

**Hortonville Area School District**

**Science Teacher – Greenville Middle School**

**1995 - 2023**



## Two Truths and a Lie It's Alive!

By:

Ammi-Joan Paquette & Laurie Ann Thompson

### *Dedicated in Honor of* **Michael Paltzer**

*Hello! I am very glad that you have chose this book. If you enjoy it, there are two more like it on different topics you may want to check out. My name is Mr. Michael Paltzer and I taught science for over 30 years, most of them here at GMS. I chose these books for your library because they cover some of my favorite topics (science and history) and help you learn an important skill along the way.*

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**Michael Paltzer**

**June 2023**

**Hortonville Area School District**

**Science Teacher – Greenville Middle School**

**1995 - 2023**



## Only One You

By:  
Linda Kranz

### *Dedicated in Honor of Denise Parry*

*I came to Hortonville Middle School in 1998 as a special education teacher. In 2001 I moved to a second-grade position at Hortonville Elementary and was one of the first teachers to be part of the Literacy Collaborative. I was involved in the Hortonville Elementary School Building Team and the Math Team for many years as well as the Technology Committee for the school district. I was also the team leader for the second-grade team at various times throughout the years. I had a career of 26 years in the Hortonville Area School District.*

*My Book selection is "Only One You". This book shares powerful words of wisdom to live by in the journey of life. The concluding message tells us to make the world a better place. Through my words and example, I have tried to instill life lessons in my students. I hope I am remembered for making the world a better place. Enjoy! -Mrs. Parry*

**Denise Parry**  
**June 2024**  
**Hortonville Elementary School**  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher**  
**1998 - 2024**



## *The Kissing Hand*

By:  
Audrey Penn

### *Dedicated in Honor of Anita Rhone*

*I selected the book *The Kissing Hand* by Audrey Penn. *The Kissing Hand* shares the story of Chester Raccoon, who is terrified at the thought of starting kindergarten and being away from his home, his mother, and his usual routine. To calm his nerves, Chester's mother reassures him that kindergarten will be full of new and exciting activities.*

*Chester's mother shares a wonderful secret that will make him feel at home at school: the Kissing Hand. Chester is eager to know more, so his mother shows him the secret of the Kissing Hand. His mother kisses the center of his palm and tells him that whenever he feels nervous or scared, he can press his hand to his cheek and remember how much his mom loves him. Chester is comforted knowing that his mother's love will be with him wherever he goes, even kindergarten.*

*Starting kindergarten can be full of new emotions for students. When I taught Kindergarten, I always read *The Kissing Hand* on the first day and created an art project with a handprint. Students took their "kissing hands" home to share with their family, since the first day of kindergarten is often just as emotional for parents as it is for students. This will always be a favorite memory of mine from my years at Hortonville Elementary School.*

**Anita Rhone**

**June 2024**

**Hortonville Elementary School**

**Math Coach (Literacy Coach)**

**1995 - 2024**





## *Killers of the Flower Moon*

By:  
David Grann

### *Dedicated in Honor of Michael Sommers*

*I picked this book because I was amazed at the injustices that Native-Americans were subjected to. I was part of a teacher exchange program back in 1997 and a German student asked me the question, " Why did you treat Native-Americans the way you did?" It made me think....and after reading this book I was ashamed of how we treated the tribes impacted during this time period. They deserved better.*

**Michael Sommer**

**June 2024**

**Hortonville Area School District**

**Teacher – Social Studies**

**1994 - 2024**



## Only One You

By:  
Linda Kranz

### *Dedicated in Honor of Anne Walker*

*"I think this is one of the most beautiful stories ever written. Its message is simple, yet it is incredibly important for young and old alike! If everyone would be open and willing to follow the advice of Adri's parents, the world would be an even more amazing place! Every one of us is unique and special in our own way (inside & out)! Listen to your heart and be your own person and you will always find happiness!"*

**Anne Walker**

**June 2024**

**Hortonville Area School District  
Administrative Assistant – Pupil Services  
1999 - 2024**



## *The Wheels on the Bus with Sydney and Skyler*

By:

*Dedicated in Honor of  
Nancy Willenkamp*

*I am very proud to pick the Wheels on the Bus book as a remembrance. I drove for many years and was very proud of my job. I enjoyed driving the children to school and gained many friendships throughout the years. I am very proud to work for the Hortonville School District driving Bus #7.*

*Nancy Willenkamp*

*June 2024*

*Hortonville Area School District*

*Bus Driver*

*1971 - 2023*

# *Messages to our Retirees:*



*As you head off on an  
amazing new chapter of  
your life, we want to send  
wonderful wishes with you  
for your retirement.  
Enjoy your family and  
friends.  
Enjoy your Retirement.*





## ***In Honor of Brenda Bergmann***

*Dearest Brenda,*

*We shared many years as employees of HASD yet we only had minimal contact, nevertheless, I always looked forward to speaking with you. I appreciated our conversations so much! You know the teachers of Hortonville and you demonstrate great compassion and patience with us. I loved hearing about what was new in your life and greatly enjoyed being listened to as I shared my own experiences. Your many years of dedication are truly remarkable. I will miss you! Enjoy your new free time to travel and more face-to-face encounters with your grandson in addition to those facetime chats! Un abrazo,*

*Janet Rowe*

*Retired Teacher/Spanish Translation & Interpretation*

*Brenda, you are an incredibly dedicated person to this district. You know and understand the ins and outs of the financial benefits and the way everything should be handled for each employee. Your concern for each staff member is amazing. Your kindness you show to each person you meet and work with goes well above and beyond. You will be truly missed in the Hortonville Area School District. You are also a good friend. It is always wonderful to talk to you about our grandchildren. Please enjoy every minute with Henry and your future grandchildren. Enjoy your time with Bill and exploring the country. Thank you for always being there to lend a hand and an ear when needed. You are a wonderful co-worker and friend.*

*Tamie Neilson*

*District Administrative Assistant*

*Brenda, thank you for sharing so many years with HASD. Your genuine smile, helpfulness, and approachable nature will be missed. Enjoy your retirement! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway*

*Interventionist (Literacy Coach) GMS*

*I appreciate the knowledge and expertise of Brenda Bergmann. She is a wealth of knowledge. Brenda has always been willing to devote the time to every single employee in this school district. I will miss comparing our stories of a Vegas trip or two. Best of Luck Brenda. You will be missed.*

*Todd Timm*

*District Administrator*

*Congratulations Brenda. I always appreciated your knowledge and patience with me as both principal and most recently as the district's HR Director. You always brought great insight to issues, and nothing ever seemed to surprise you because you truly saw it all. Congratulations on your retirement.*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Brenda is a consummate professional with a wealth of knowledge at her fingertips. She is impeccable on her attention to detail and can answer every question asked of her consistently. Her hard work and fortitude on the "details" of our organization are exemplary and this dedication will be missed. Thank you for consistently giving to others your knowledge and wisdom. May retirement bring you adventure, lots of laughter and time to do what you love to do. Thank you for investing in all of us!  
With gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochon  
Principal - HMS/FWA*

*Brenda has been a friendly face since day 1 when I became a member of the HASD team. She has helped me with countless questions and has always been patient, friendly, and timely. I appreciate all her help and guidance over the years. Brenda will surely be missed, and I am thankful for the time I was able to learn from her. Her smile and humor will be missed, and I wish her the very best on her next adventure!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal - GMS*

*Congratulations on your retirement! I am grateful for your invaluable contributions to the district. Your patience, wisdom, and unwavering dedication made a lasting mark on all of us. Over the years, you have generously shared your wealth of knowledge and experience, patiently answering countless questions and providing guidance with grace and kindness. The wealth of wisdom and history you carry with you is truly irreplaceable. We will miss you dearly and wish you nothing but the very best in your well-deserved retirement.*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning - HASD*

*Brenda - your patience, understanding, and communication skills are second to none. Over the past few years, I have caused you so much paperwork, peppered you with so many endless questions, sprouted off many a complicated request in email, and you tolerate and endure my requests with so much grace and kindness. You will be sorely missed!*

*Anne Brahe  
Social Studies Teacher - HHS*

*Thank you for answering all of our silly financial, insurance, FMLA, retirement, and any other question we had with a smile and kindness. Especially since all we ever had to do was just read an email to get our answers, ha! Congratulations on your service to HASD!!! Enjoy retirement!*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher - NGES*

Brenda,

Thank you for all your help from the business office! You are always so patient, kind, and professional with all the questions thrown at you over the years. Thank you for everything! Enjoy your retirement! You deserve it!! Sincerely,

Sheila Powers  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teacher – HES

Brenda- Thank you for always being a resource for answering a wide variety of my questions throughout the years and always doing it in a kind and caring way. We will miss your expertise in our district, and I wish you the best in your well-deserved retirement.

Tim Rietveld  
Principal – HHS

Congratulations on your retirement after 42 years of dedication to HASD! Wishing you endless joy as you embark on this new chapter filled with adventures gambling, traveling, and most importantly creating memories with Henry. Wishing you all that best in retirement. I am grateful for the time we worked together.

Christina Peterson  
HASD Director of Business Services





## ***In Honor of Cecilia Besaw***

*It is hard to imagine Hortonville Elementary School without the light that is Ceci Besaw. Ceci can always be counted on for a smile and a kind word. She brings fun into anything she does. From sharing her amazing cookies to inviting the staff to her home for Hallmark Movie Nights, Ceci is always coming up with ways to bring people together and making sure we take time to enjoy each other.*

*Ceci, we wish you the best in your next adventure! Don't be afraid to call on us to help rock babies or taste test cookies! Best wishes-*

*Lisa Ales, Wendy Sontag, Missy Kohl, Chris Kellett, Serena Baehman and Sarah Gilbert  
HES & HMS Teachers*

*Thank you for your dedication to your students at HES! Your huge heart, compassion, love of kids, and positive attitude are an inspiration to others. You have truly made an impact on many students lives! Enjoy your next endeavor! Happy Retirement!*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Sheila Powers, & Kendra Sousek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers - HES*

*Thank you so much for being a great mentor to so many teachers throughout the years, your wisdom has affected many lives! Good luck with your next adventures!*

*Cassie Jensen (Sorensen)  
5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher - GMS*

*To our Boss Lady:*

*Thank you for taking care of us all of these years. You have been our rock. Thank you for our leadership, laughs, advice, cookies, and shirts. You have touched many lives and will continue to do so in your next adventure. Your new students will always be smaller than you. We love you!*

*#kpack #wearenoceci #wewillfinallybewarm #wemissyualready #littlewingschildcare  
#whoisgoingtotakecareofus*

*Nicole Inman  
Kindergarten Teacher - HES*

*Shout out to Mrs. Besaw - My kids had her as their 1st grade teacher 10 years ago and she was wonderful!*

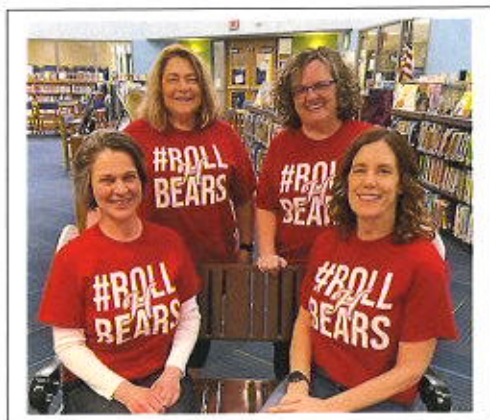
*They did a lot of cooking and still use some of the recipes today. 😊 She is the sweetest! Thanks for all you've done at HASD!*

*Jennifer Tousey  
HASD Substitute*



Ceci and I started teaching together 32 years ago. We have been “next door” to each other in some way for all those years. Our first year, she taught second grade, and I taught first, and we became fast friends! As I became a K-2 Literacy Collaborative Coach, (and she moved down to first and then down to kindergarten), she was my go-to classroom for every visitor that toured our school! I know there were many times she would have rather said no, but she didn’t. She is just that amazing of a person. When you have been friends with a person for over 32 years, you experience and go through some really hard times. Ceci was my strength through some of the most difficult days. She knew that a fresh baked plate of cookies or a dozen peanut butter balls would bring joy to my heart when life wasn’t very joyful. I appreciate not only her professionalism but also her friendship. Roll on Bears.....Hugs to some of the best!

Dawn De Guelle  
Literacy Coach - HES



Ceci,  
You have been so committed to teaching the students of HES over the years. We know that all of the families you have touched remember you so fondly. You will be missed, but we are so excited for you and your retirement adventures. Having your own childcare will make as much of an impact as your teaching career has. We can only imagine what fun you will have with the children you will have in your home. Just make sure to still have Hallmark Christmas Movie get-togethers, and be sure to keep your Target Birds away from tiny hands :)

Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, and Chris Hanna  
4th Grade Team - HES

Ceci is the best! She has a great attitude about learning and teaching all students. She has a nurturing, patient, caring attitude towards everyone and is always smiling. Ceci is creative, crafty, and has the best play-based learning stations. Enjoy your next adventure, you will truly be missed at HES!

HES Special Ed Team

Ceci - Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement. The first word I think of when I think of you (besides #boss lady or #kpack or #anythinghashtagged) is community. In addition to losing 32 years of experience, we will be missing someone who often brought others together by organizing little celebrations of all of the wonderful life milestones our employees hit. You have a special way of making everyone feel included and appreciated, a gift that has made HES that much more special for many years.

Jared Deli  
Principal - HES



## ***In Honor of Dawn De Guelle***

*Dawn's retirement truly marks the end of an era. Even though she spent most of her time with K-2nd grades, we always knew we could go to her for literacy expertise and support with our 3rd graders. Dawn's passion for early literacy is unmatched and evident as she 'pushes the pedal to the metal' rather than gliding into retirement.*

*Dawn, we are not going to say "goodbye" because we know that you are always there for those you care about. We know you care about all of us as much as we care about you!*

*Enjoy retirement. You deserve the time to focus on you! Much love-*

*Lisa Ales, Wendy Sontag, Missy Kohl, Chris Kellett, Serena Baehman and Sarah Gilbert  
HES & HMS Teachers*

*Dawn, your reflective insight, problem-solving focus, and welcoming nature will be greatly missed. Even when things got a little crazy or stressful, you remained calm as you approached the challenge. I have always looked up to you for your graceful presence and dedication to success for yourself and those around you. Thank you for sharing your huge heart with HASD. You will be missed! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Interventionist (Literacy Coach) GMS*

*Thank you for your support of our students & staff at HES! You have been a mentor and advocate to so many. Your dedication, as one of our original district literacy coaches, is inspiring. Enjoy your retirement! You deserve it!*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Sheila Powers, & Kendra Sousek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers - HES*

*Congratulations on retirement, Dawn! You possess an unparalleled depth of literacy knowledge and a visionary outlook, leading the district for over two decades with quality elementary literacy practices. Your ability to effortlessly navigate professional resources, citing page numbers and paragraphs with precision, has been nothing short of remarkable. Your thoughtful questions, insightful perspectives, and endless thirst for learning have enriched us all, and you will be deeply missed not only at HES but across the HASD. Enjoy this new chapter of life, filled with relaxation, exploration, and the joy of knowing that your legacy of knowledge and vision will continue to resonate within our district for years to come.*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning - HASD*



Thank you for all your professional literacy knowledge through the years!  
Thank you for all the laughs too! We enjoyed our talks about Algoma, your medical history, your professional opinion about photos, your children's' lives, your facial expressions, and your fancy vocabulary! Enjoy becoming a master gardener in your retirement! You will always be Zen  
Dawn! Love, #kpack

Cecilia Besaw  
Kindergarten Teacher – HES

Dawn, whenever I think of you, I think about your smile and ability to make me feel heard. I love your laugh and you truly are a fierce advocate for all things for students, teachers, and staff. Thank you for all the heart and soul you have poured into your career. I know that this going to be such a positive thing for you, but you will be greatly missed by me and our team. Love,

Jen Smith  
Math Instructional Coach & Interventionist – GES

The phrase, “Dawn says!” is one each of us has used, and probably many other teachers as well. It carries weight because when Dawn said something or wondered about something or questioned something, people listened. She has been a true mentor and coach to all of us; her wisdom, deep commitment to literacy and children, and great sense of humor have been unparalleled. Dawn, please know you will be missed. We are so excited to follow you on your retirement adventures with updates from the bird cam! We love you, Dawn!

Michelle Bartlett, Jen Cook, Jenny Gassner, Tom Kraus and Cheryl Twedt  
Literacy Coaches - HASD

Dawn,  
Your expertise in reading and teaching have been a staple here at HES for so many years! You were always willing to help out any staff member with ideas, pulling books, and modeling groups. You have helped so many students make gains in reading in the formative literacy years! You deserve a break for sure! We know that you will make the most of retirement spending time with family, traveling, watching birds, and maybe even drinking some of Tom's award-winning old fashioned! Stay in touch, and we hope that we can go out and relax with you sometime!

Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, and Chris Hanna  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team – HES

Thank you for everything you have done for the HES students, staff, & families. Many of us know how your connections and relationships built traveled well beyond HES. Enjoy retirement!

Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher - NGES

Dawn is an advocate for kids and is passionate about reading. She takes students' needs to heart and goes above and beyond to help them learn to read. She supports colleagues in learning how to teach reading. Enjoy your retirement, and your next adventure.

HES Special Ed Team

*Dawn - Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement! I will always be grateful for your knowledge and commitment to literacy instruction at HES. The knowledge that our staff gained from you, including myself, has and will continue to impact the current and future students of HES for years to come. I hope retirement is filled with family time, trips back home to Algoma, and famously muddled old fashions from Tom! Thank you for 31 years of service to the HASD.*

*Jared Deli  
Principal - HES*





### **In Honor of Cherie Krynock**

*When I think of Cherie, I think of her consistently striving for excellence in everything she does. She lives and breathes school and her students' success. You can often find her by email into the wee hours of the night! Without question, Cherie is someone that was simply born to be a teacher and even upon retirement; she is still looking for ways to stay connected with and to students. Cherie gives with her whole heart through ensuring students have what they need, are celebrated for their successes, and are held to very high academic and behavioral standards. Cherie will do whatever it takes to ensure they get there! She is someone that will be profoundly missed in a myriad of ways. Her spirit, her spunk, her insight into what kids need and giving it to them, coupled with her passion for always doing right by kids is not replaceable. She is a beautiful spirit in this world, and I have been unbelievably blessed to learn and grow from her wisdom for six years. Our door will always be open, so come back any time! May you enjoy every moment of your retirement- you have earned it each and every day through your hard work and unending love for others! With tremendous gratitude, appreciation, and care,*

*Torrie Rochon  
Principal – HMS/FWA*

*As you transition into retirement, I find myself reflecting on one of my earliest memories in the district. I was a scared first year teacher participating in Polar Bear Academy, and you invited me to walk with you during one of our class breaks. We talked as if we had known each other for ages, and I found my fear and nervousness turning into excitement to be joining you and the rest of the special education teachers in Hortonville. I remember going home and telling my roommate how glad I was to have chosen Hortonville as my home, and for that, I have you to thank. Since that walk, I have had the pleasure and privilege of collaborating with you as a teacher and an administrator. I am thankful for the eight years we have known each other, but selfishly, I wish we got to keep you a little longer. Your dedication, compassion, and unwavering commitment to your students and colleagues have left a lasting mark on our school community, as have your unmatched sense of humor and ability to bring light to dark days. As you embark on this new chapter, I hope your days are filled with long walks with Indy, cherished moments with your husband, and the time to adventure to new places. Your legacy of kindness and positivity will continue to inspire us all at Hortonville Middle School. Happy retirement, Cherie!*

*Katie Proietti  
Associate Principal – HMS/FWA*

*Cherie has dedicated her talents to the HMS students for 34 years. She has modeled the highest degree of professionalism to her students and colleagues through her words and actions. Seeing promise in all students, Cherie has set the bar high both for herself and those she has taught. It is with a humble heart that she has served others. Her integrity has never wavered. Cherie has not only been my colleague, but also a very dear friend. Her advice, encouragement, and loyalty will forever be treasured. Best wishes for an amazing retirement! God bless you always, my friend.*

Sara McMorrow  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher - HMS

*Cherie is truly a remarkable educator who has touched the lives of so many. Cherie's passion for ensuring all students learn at the highest level can be seen through her selflessness and sacrifices. Cherie has spent countless hours tutoring students during her lunches and after school times in order for them to learn each essential learning target. Cherie has a soft-spoken nature, but that should fool no one, as her strength can be seen in her strong advocacy for what is right for kids. Cherie has ignited so many minds, guiding her students through their learning complexities with patience and care.*

Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services - HASD

*It has been an honor to work alongside you, Cherie. Your dedication to teaching and passion for making sure students understand math is evident in everything you say and do. Thank you for your support and friendship. Congratulations on your retirement!*

Katie Jahnke  
Special Education Teacher - HMS

*Cherie is beyond an amazing teacher and co-worker. After years of my son struggling with school, my son has spent this past school year with Cherie and has made such progress. He has gained confidence, isn't afraid to ask for help and we no longer have to fight with him to come to school. Working with Cherie has been such a blessing for both of my boys that attend HMS and to myself, we will truly miss her.*

Jessica Roberts  
Administrative Assistant - HMS/FWA





## **In Honor of Michael Paltzer**

*I was fortunate to work next door to Mike Paltzer for nine years. During that time, he provided advice, support, and a listening-ear. His commitment to HASD can only be matched by his commitment to owning the world's largest collection of science t-shirts and flannel shirts. Mike lifted my spirits daily with his ridiculous jokes that were guaranteed to get both a smile and groan with the punchline (I still have some of his comic strips taped to my desk). Mike's influence has made me more confident as a teacher, and his love of science undoubtedly influenced countless students to pursue STEAM careers themselves. I miss teaching with him, but I'm happy that he's already diving into a busy and exciting retirement. Woot woot!*

*Alyson Newhouse  
8<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS*

*Mike, your love of science, playful banter, and pushing students to be their best was always evident. Underneath your flannel and science T-shirt is a big heart! GMS was lucky to have you for so many years! Wishing you lots of fun in all of your retirement adventures! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Interventionist (Literacy Coach) GMS*

*Congratulations Mike on your well-deserved retirement. I appreciate you and the 8th grade team housing HR during our inaugural year in the district. Your knowledge and commitment to our students will always be valued.*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Prior to my transition to GMS, I was able to collaborate with Mike as part of the Expo team. His passion for that great work and sharing all the great things HASD has to offer was clear in his dedication. When I moved over to GMS, he was welcoming and helped me learn so much about the middle school schedule, the curriculum, and the students themselves. He brought a great passion for science which was contagious within his students. The "Dress Like Mr. Paltzer" days were always a big hit with his team and his students. The greatest participation came on those days for sure! The academic skills and the work ethic he helped students to build on top of it all certainly helped to prepare our students for high school. We love to see his face when he shows up as trip driver on our school busses, and we look forward to seeing his presence in the building for years to come whether he is there or not. Congratulations Mike, enjoy every minute!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal - GMS*

*Mike, your love of science, playful banter, and pushing students to be their best was always evident. Underneath your flannel and science T-shirt is a big heart! Thank you for showing me that sending a singing gram can have long-term consequences. :) GMS was lucky to have you for so many years! Wishing you lots of fun in all of your retirement adventures! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Interventionist – GMS*

*I enjoyed working with you at GMS years ago! We had some fun! Thank you for your service to our district, committees, students, & families! Thank you for sharing your passion for Science with our students.*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher – NGES*

*It is with gratitude that I bid farewell to Mr. Mike Paltzer as he embarks on a well-deserved retirement from teaching.*

*Throughout his tenure, Mr. Paltzer has captivated students with his profound knowledge, infectious enthusiasm, and, above all, his remarkable sense of humor. His classroom was not merely a space for learning about the wonders of science but also a hub of laughter and joy.*

*Mr. Paltzer's ability to forge strong connections with his students was truly exceptional. He had an innate talent for understanding their individual needs and fostering an environment where they felt valued and inspired to learn. His impact extended far beyond the classroom, leaving an indelible mark on countless lives.*

*As Mr. Paltzer embarks on this new chapter of his life, let us take a moment to express our deepest appreciation for his dedication, passion, and unwavering commitment to education. May his retirement be filled with joy, relaxation, and countless new adventures. You will be greatly missed, Mr. Paltzer, but your legacy will continue to inspire generations of students to come.*

*Travis Lawrence  
Principal - GMS*





### **In Honor of Denise Parry**

*After years of giving her all to her students, we are so happy for Denise to take some much-deserved time for herself! Denise does a wonderful job preparing her second graders to come to us in third grade. We have always appreciated how much care she puts into the success of her students, even after they are in her class. She can always be counted on to offer advice and support on her former students. Denise's caring nature goes beyond the classroom. Every holiday season, Denise coordinates gift collection for the Christmas Wish Program for the Dale/Hortonville Food Pantry. Denise, we are sure going to miss you! Good luck in your next chapter!*

*Lisa Ales, Wendy Sontag, Missy Kohl, Chris Kellett, Serena Baehman and Sarah Gilbert  
HES & HMS Teachers*

*It has been a pleasure to work with you. You have been our team organizer, and our voice of reason. Thank you for being a great colleague, mentor, and friend to all of us. You have made a huge impact on so many students at HASD. Your caring spirit, grace, patience, compassion, and dedication to all your students is an inspiration to others. We will truly miss you on our 2nd Grade Team at HES!! Enjoy your next journey! Happy Retirement!!*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Sheila Powers, & Kendra Sousek  
2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Teachers - HES*

*Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement from teaching Denise! From a special education teacher to a classroom teacher, you were always very patient and calm with all the children you worked with. They were all very fortunate to have you as a teacher! We were also very fortunate to have you as a coworker! Enjoy every minute with John and Ryan! Love,*

*Ceci Besaw, Jill Froze, Kathy Kleiber, and Nicole Inman  
Kindergarten Teachers - HES*

*Denise joined us from the middle school and was a great addition to the second-grade team at HES. She is always organized, thoughtful, and was always willing to have outside observers in her classroom as we implemented our literacy initiatives. She is often quiet, but she is very reflective about her teaching. As her literacy coach, I was often impressed at how she took her new learning and hit the road running with her students. It not only has been a pleasure working with her, but also spending time with her family outside of school.*

*Dawn De Guelle  
Literacy Coach - HES*

Denise,

*You have served the students and staff at HES for a wonderfully long time. Your legacy is one of caring, and the memories that we all have, along with your students, will endure! The community also was rewarded by your gifts when you ran the Adopt a Family program each year at HES. We will for sure miss you here, but we know you will have such a nice retirement. Working on your own terms, spending time with family and friends, and of course relaxing! Stay in touch for sure!*

*Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, and Chris Hanna  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team - HES*

*Denise wants to see kids do their best. She has great routines and structure in her classroom, and she cares about students. She is truly dedicated to student success. Denise is caring, kind, and helpful to both colleagues and students. Enjoy your retirement, Denise!*

*HES Special Ed Team*

*Denise - There are many things that I admire about you, but a couple stand out. First, your commitment and belief in kids. I can visualize you saying, "he can do it.", which was often followed up with a plan of something that you would like to try next. I know this is an attribute that will be missed by your 2nd grade counterparts. You always seemed to have a way in PLC to bring us back and keep us focused on the task at hand. The other is your strength and toughness, both physically and mentally. The students at our school benefited immensely from your consistency and commitment to doing jobs well. Thank for you for 26 years of service to the HASD. Congratulations on a well-deserved retirement!*

*Jared Deli  
Principal - HES*





## **In Honor of Anita Rhone**

*I have been blessed to work with you for many years! You are a deep thinker as well as a calm person who brings a sense of peace to all. Thank you for being an amazing kindergarten teacher and a dedicated math coach and interventionist. I will miss you, dear friend!*

*Have a joy-filled retirement!*



*Lisa Borowski  
Math Coach/Interventionist/GATE - NGES*

*Thank you, Anita, for your years of service, your unwavering dedication, and your profound impact on our community. You have been a cornerstone to HES, serving in various roles from teacher to literacy interventionist, and finally, as a math coach. With grace, calm, and professionalism, you have served as a pillar of support for both teachers and students alike. Whether it was guiding struggling readers or demystifying complex mathematical concepts, you approach each task with dedication, empathy, and an unyielding belief in the potential of every student. Here's to a well-deserved retirement filled with relaxation and new adventures! Anita, you will be deeply missed, and we are filled with gratitude for the indelible mark you have left on the countless lives you have touched throughout your career. Congratulations!*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning - HASD*

*We are so happy for you Anita! Retirement is going to look great on you! Paddleboarding on the lake, watching sunrises and sunsets, listening to the birds and planting flowers, it doesn't get much better! Thank you for being such a wonderful coworker through the years! And thank you for being a great teacher to some of our children! They were lucky to have you as a kindergarten teacher! Love,*

*Ceci Besaw, Jill Froze, Kathy Kleiber, and Nicole Inman  
Kindergarten Teachers - HES*

*We value your support in math & tier 2. We especially appreciate your help navigating through our new IM Math Curriculum and offering emotional support. Thanks for your time & effort with our students who needed a little extra love. You will be greatly missed at HES! Enjoy your new journey! Happy Retirement!! Sincerely,*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Denise Parry, Sheila Powers, & Kendra Sousek  
2nd Grade Team - HES*

Anita, your retirement took us by surprise. We are so happy that you will be able to retire and take care of yourself. You are remembered fondly as a great Kindergarten teacher, mentor and coach. We will miss seeing you in our classrooms helping us and our students with math. But we hope we get invited to the lake to relax and reminisce with you! Enjoy retirement, you deserve it! Best wishes-

Lisa Ales, Wendy Sontag, Missy Kohl, Chris Kellett, Serena Baehman and Sarah Gilbert  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Team & Former Team Member – HES

Anita, you are an inspiration to me in so many ways. The things that you have overcome, the ways in which you show your strength to me and others. I am going to fiercely miss you on our team, and for all the knowledge and wisdom you bring. Your ability to listen to me in my most vulnerable times will never be forgotten. Best of luck to you in your retirement! Love,

Jen Smith  
Math Instructional Coach & Interventionist – GES

Anita and I trained as some of the first Reading Recovery Intervention teachers for HES. We bonded over intensive new learning (as our kids started growing up together). Anita then became my teaching partner in kindergarten and first grade. We each taught half of the day, while I was in training at The Ohio State University for the Literacy Collaborative coaching role. So often I would call her from Ohio and say, "Don't move anything!" I had learned so many new things and needed to come back and adjust our classroom. She always had patience for my ever-changing ideas. Over the course of 25 years, we have taught together and developed the most wonderful friendship. I am so grateful for all the help and laughter you have provided over the years. Thanks for always having my back!

Dawn De Guelle  
Literacy Coach – HES

Anita, you are a true listener, reflective educator, and overall kind human. You lead by example as you advocate for students and staff. Your calm and positive demeanor served as a lighthouse for so many. Thank you for giving so much to HASD! Enjoy your retirement! Sincerely,

Rachel Galloway  
Interventionist – GMS

Anita,  
You have had such a wonderful career here in Hortonville. You are always looking for ways to help out students and teachers. Because of this, your influence will live on long after you retire! What an impact! We will all miss you of course, but visions of you relaxing on the lake make us smile. You deserve all of the relaxing time there and with family that will fill your retirement. We will all be trying to channel those relaxing lake vibes during the first weeks of school next year :) Stay in touch!

Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, and Chris Hanna  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Team - HES

Anita is patient and appreciates kids for who they are. She builds great relationships with students and is very encouraging for students that struggle. She is always willing to help others and offers great advice to help students understand math concepts in a fun, hands-on way.

HES Special Ed Team



Anita - Thank for 31 years of service to the HASD! A span where you taught kindergarten, delivered literacy and math intervention, and provided instructional coaching for mathematics. Over these past few years, I have really appreciated your ability to remember and consider the classroom teacher perspective. During IM roll out or any of our progress and coaching conversations you often accurately anticipated or brought in perspectives that improved the effectiveness of the plan. Your leadership style is very people first, something I know our staff and students have greatly benefited from over the years.

Jared Deli  
Principal - HES



## **In Honor of David Schlichting**

*Dave, thank you for all your support to the Hortonville Area School District. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you as a Board member for the last twelve (12) years. Enjoy spending time now with your family and friends and traveling. Stop by now and then to show us pictures of your grandchildren and all your adventures. Take care,*

*Tamie Neilson  
District Administrative Assistant*

*Dave Schlichting has been a committed school board member of the Hortonville Area School District for 12 years. You do not see that commitment very often today. His dedication to the employees, constituents, and students has been exemplary. Dave was thoughtful with each and every vote. He was a board member during two successful referendum campaigns. He supported the outdoor athletic complex fundraising campaign. Dave was a board member to one of the very best school districts in Wisconsin. Thank you for your years of service on the Hortonville Area School District School Board.*

*Todd Timm  
District Administrator*

*Congratulations on a great run Mr. Schlichting. The impact that you have had on myself and so many other staff members, students and this community can never be measured. In everything that you did, your love for this district and passion for its success was evident.*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Dave has been a dedicated and valued member of our school board for many years. Every decision he made came down to what is best for our students and was in support of our amazing staff, and community. During times of celebration, as well as times of challenge, he was unwavering in his commitment to our district mission. Thank you for being an outstanding leader and role model for our entire school community.*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal - GMS*

*Thank you for your years of dedicated service to our district. Your positive demeanor, unwavering support, and steadfast commitment have been instrumental in driving positive change and progress within our educational community. It has been a privilege to work alongside you, and I am grateful for the opportunity to have benefited from your wisdom and guidance.*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning - HASD*

*Dave will be forever appreciated for his unwavering dedication to supporting the needs of all of our students. He has ensured our students have received the resources and opportunities they deserve. Our community will always be grateful for his service and leadership.*

*Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services - HASD*

*Thank you for your years of service to our school board. Thank you for your continual support of our staff and students even after your own children had graduated from HASD.*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher - NGES*

*Dave- Thank you for your time and willingness to help make this the best school district for students, families, and employees over the years. I wish you the best in retirement and hope to see you on Friday nights.*

*Tim Rietveld  
Principal - HHS*

*Thank you for your invaluable service to the students, staff, and community throughout your tenure as a board member. Your dedication has made a lasting impact and the district is truly fortunate to have had you advocating on its behalf. Wishing you a fulfilling retirement.*

*Christina Peterson  
HASD Director of Business Services*





## **In Honor of Michael Sommers**

*Mike, while my own children never had you as a teacher, I was well aware of your compassion and care of other students. You are truly a kind soul. I really enjoyed speaking with you over the years and wish you well in retirement. Enjoy! Relax! You have done great and important work that will reverberate through generations.*  
Kindest regards,

*Janet Rowe*  
Retired Teacher / Spanish Translation & Interpretation

*Oh Mr. Sommers, where do I begin!*  
Let's start with his teaching contributions to HASD. One of the all-time best teachers that our school district has ever employed. Committed to making school better for all students while also teaching the students right from wrong in school and more importantly in life. A family man through and through and also a local kid who stayed home to make a difference in his community to thousands and thousands of people both young and old. His family always came first in the 30 plus years that I have known the man and for that I respect him greatly!

A very good coach as he coached from the youth levels with his children and with me doing HMS and GMS football and basketball. He also coached at the HS level doing football, basketball, and baseball. Very patient with the student athletes and the thing that I will always remember about coaching with him is that he made it about more than just the competition on the field. He always talked to the athletes in a way that they learned life lessons from him that they could carry on for a lifetime. Lastly, our friendship!! Not sure where to begin there but we started teaching together the same year, we coached over 20 years together in various sports, we hung out in the summertime golfing or just visiting, we attended sporting events together, his problems were my problems, and his joys were my joys, we had the teaching bond which I think we all understand that connection and finally if there was ever one person that I could confide in or go to with a problem in our 30 years together it was him and he could with me as well.

*Thanks Mike!!!*  
Your Friend for life and sometimes best friend 😊  
Mark "Reiny" Reinemann  
Physical Education Teacher, GMS

*Congratulations Mike on your retirement. There isn't another person that better represents or cares for the Hortonville Community and our students. Your care for others and patience in every situation will be missed.*

*Thomas Ellenbecker*  
Human Resource Director



Congratulations, Mr. Sommers, on your well-deserved retirement from Hortonville High School. Thank you for your years of service and unwavering commitment to our students and school district. Thank you for trusting our district to educate your children as well. It is nearly impossible to list the number of activities and students Mr. Sommers has worked with over his career. As a member of your department stated, if there were a Mount Rushmore of Hortonville High School, Mr. Sommers would be on it. I couldn't agree more!

Thank you for everything and enjoy the time with your family.

Timothy Rietveld

Principal, HHS

As a new teacher coming into the district back in 2008, I was a bit overwhelmed by some of the personalities in my department, but Mike's kind demeanor, genuine smiles, and daily greetings in the hallway, really helped put me at ease. Getting to collaborate together on AP World History, as Mike took me under his wing, had me looking forward to our meetings, learning from how he balances student needs, interests, and talents in the classroom. I will miss working with Mike so much that now if I just walk past his room, the smell of Pine-Sol has me tearing up already. The social studies department won't be the same without him, but we are so happy for him to move into this wonderful new phase of life as a retiree!!!

Anne Brahe

Social Studies Teacher HHS

Mr. Sommers has had an impact across many generations. He has made an impact on my family in many ways. My son is lucky to be in his classroom today, my husband was a former student and still talks about his time with Mike, and it has been my pleasure to be his colleagues at HHS and as a coach at GMS. Whenever you engage in conversation with Mike, he makes you feel like the only person in the room, his full attention to each moment leaves an impact on those around him. He is proud to be a Polar Bear and his legacy will certain live on in the walls of HHS but in our community as well. Thank you, Mike, for all you have done, and will continue to do to make everyone around you a better person.

Jesse Powell

Associate Principal - GMS

Thank you for being a great teacher, coach, and role model at HASD. Making connections and having an impact on others is a quality you possess. You have definitely made a positive impact on our family! Thank you for everything!! Enjoy your Retirement! You deserve it!

The Powers family

Ron, Sheila, Tyler, Sami, & Tommy

Thank you for your dedication to the students, families, and staff of the entire Hortonville High School community. Please know that the impact you have made in so many lives extends beyond the walls of our building. Wishing you a wonderful retirement!

Kari Rankin

Dean of Students - HHS

*He's my uncle and has also been my teacher, boss, sponsor, and mentor. I don't know of a gentler, humbler, more patient, and kind soul. He has made an immeasurable impact on our community as an educator, recreation director, sports announcer, and coach. Soak up every moment of your well-deserved retirement and thank you for being such a positive influence in so many people's lives, including mine!*

*Elisabeth Pascaly  
EL Teacher – GES/HMS*

*Mr. Sommers was a teacher of mine years ago. But even before meeting him in the classroom, I was a kid who attended the summer recreation program that he put on and led for decades! Summer Rec. was the best because of Mr. Sommers. He knew all the kids. He made everyone feel welcome. His announcement skills during RBI baseball and NCAA basketball were second to none! What a strong, positive presence he has been for our community as a whole! When our son played tackle football for the Hortonville Football Club, I learned of a leadership award given out to a football player in each grade. It was the Mike Sommers Award and it represented someone of good character who showed leadership to their teammates. This is exactly the award that should be given out in the name of a man like Mr. Sommers! Thank you for your years of service to our entire community!*

*Pam Yeager  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher - GMS*





## **In Honor of Donna Van**

*Donna Van AKA Miss Donna has been a valued member of the Transportation team for close to 10 years, during that time she has made friends with drivers, the students she drives and their parents, she will be sorely missed by all. Donna is an integral part of the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC Team), she has donated countless hours to the fundraising efforts, geared towards the Transportation Adopt-A-Family Bucket Raffle as a helper. As an extremely talented artist, Donna has gifted beautiful drawings and paintings to help this fundraiser. Miss Donna, we wish you well in your new endeavors, we will miss your sunny smile and peaceful presence.... but just remember if things get tight at the bus garage.... We know where you live.*

*Brian Gooding  
Director of Transportation - HASD*

*Donna has been one of the most caring drivers I've worked with over the years. She often has handed out various gifts /treats to her kiddos combined with offering motherly/grandmotherly advice to them at times too. When Covid hit and our school year came to an abrupt end, Donna took it upon herself to hand deliver personalized gifts to each of her students' homes. When Donna read on a local FB page that a young area child wanted desperately to take a ride in a bus, Donna arranged for that to happen, and that kid was smiling from ear to ear!! Along with being a special driver, Donna has been an active member of our Transportation Advisory Committee at the bus garage. Her contributions to our team over the past years are greatly appreciated.*

*Additionally, I would like to share with you a poem that Donna wrote. She wrote it after overhearing one of our drivers being referenced as "just a stupid bus driver" by a parent. The poem was her rebuttal.*

### **JUST A STUPID BUS DRIVER (by Donna Van - 2020)**

*Just a bus driver that has a college degree and has decided after retiring to drive bus because they love children.*

*A bus driver that greets your child with a smile and a good morning to start their day good.*

*Just a bus driver that takes care of 67 precious lives every day and keeps them safe.*

*A bus driver that counsels a child that gets on the bus in tears and tells them everyone has bad days and reassures them that you love them.*

*Just a bus driver that cleans up your child's vomit when they are sick and calls the school to make sure they are taken care of when they are dropped off.*

*A bus driver that takes the time to talk to the students and tell them that the bus motto is to "treat others the way you would want to be treated".*

*Just a bus driver that cares to make sure if there is a problem on the bus to be sure and let her know by a note or phone call and it will be anonymously taken care of.*



*A bus driver that laughs and has fun conversations with the children. And tries not to laugh when told they want to be a clothes designer for vampires.*

*Just a bus driver that has a Christmas gift for each one and puts in their mailbox if absent.*

*A bus driver that takes the lunch or cassette that your child forgot on the bus to the school so they wouldn't go hungry or get in trouble.*

*Just a bus driver that takes extra time with a student crying, because they miss their mom, and consoles them until they feel better.*

*A bus driver that takes your child's instrument home they forgot on the bus, just because they care.*

*Just a bus driver that goes out in below zero weather and gets the bus prepared so your child has a safe ride.*

*A bus driver that repeats bus rules sometimes 6 times a day but doesn't mind because it keeps the kids safe.*

*Just a bus driver that loses sleep when hearing of a school bus accident where children were hurt and going over scenarios what could have been done differently.*

*A bus driver that prays for help everyday watching the road, all mirrors, all warning lights, inattentive drivers and 67 kids all at the same time.*

*Just a bus driver that takes many classes a year to stay informed on all safety and emergency procedures.*

*And finally, just a stupid bus driver that has her heart as full as her hands.*

*Sheila Ziesemer*

*HASD Bus Driver - Transportation*



## **In Honor of Anne Walker**

*Anne is that invisible force that keeps things running smoothly. She is the epitome of reliability and warmth. Whenever any of us encounter a problem big or small, she is always there to help. What truly sets Anne apart is her unwavering positivity. You can't help but smile after hanging up the phone after speaking with her. Anne, I wish you all the best for a well-deserved retirement filled with joy, relaxation, and new adventures.*

*Kayla Schalewski,  
SE Teacher NGES*

*Anne is such an amazing person. Always smiling, always caring, going out of her way to make everyone feel that they are the most important person when speaking to her. I can't thank Anne enough for being such a great supporter when I started working at GMS. Enjoy your well-deserved time Anne with your family and friends.*

*Tamie Neilson  
District Administrative Assistant*

*Anne has always been one of the friendliest people in the Hortonville Area School District. Since I started in the district, Anne has been welcoming and so kind to me. Anne walks around with a smile all the time, even if there's lots going on. She always provides a listening ear to anyone and cares deeply about the success of our students. Anne has always been a shining light and she consistently brightens everyone's day. Thank you, Anne for being such a kind, caring soul. You will be missed.*

*Katie Bushmaker  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher GMS*

*Anne, there is no one more kind, helpful, or positive than you, so to find out that you can be a great Grinch was a big surprise! Your positivity is contagious, and you spread smiles wherever you go. Thanks for making HASD a better place! Enjoy your retirement! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Interventionist (Literacy Coach) GMS*

*Possibly the kindest person the world has seen. You cannot be in a bad mood when you work with Anne. Her genuine care for people is seen in every interaction and spreads among the people she comes in contact with each day. Best wishes to you on your well-deserved retirement Anne.*

*Todd Timm  
District Administrator*

*Anne is one of the sweetest, kindest, most hardworking, God-loving people I have ever had the pleasure to work with. She is a blessing to all those with whom she interacts. I have enjoyed the countless laughs we shared and walks we have taken. Anne will be missed dearly by the Eastside!*

*Tracy Heimmermann  
Administration Assistant, Curriculum*



Anne is a bright light on a dark night. She consistently shines care, concern, and goodness with every conversation. Her "can do" attitude is something that is always noticed. There is never a conversation you have with her that doesn't make you feel better having walked away from her- that is an exceptional quality to possess, and Anne does. She gives with her whole heart and exudes positivity and kindness to each and every person she comes in contact with. I am grateful for her service and commitment to our district. The help and assistance she has provided to myself and all of our teachers and families is a gift. It has been a true joy to work with you, Anne! With gratitude,

Torrie Rochon  
Principal - HMS/FWA

Anne's dedication to her role, our students, and our staff has made impacts on everyone throughout the district. Her welcoming smile, warm heart, and her service mindset made her a wonderful member of our team. She has demonstrated flexibility, selflessness, and commitment over the years. I enjoyed working with her in my various roles but loved seeing her friendly face at GMS. Her connection with our kids and the relationships she has made truly matter. She also wears a Grinch costume like no one else, spreading Holiday cheer is her gift! Anne, enjoy every moment of retirement with your wonderful family! I am thankful for you.

Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal - GMS

I'm sure we are all so happy for Anne as she is so deserving of her retirement. However, we are sad for ourselves as she will no longer be with us every day. Anne has been the cornerstone of our special education department. She is the kindest soul who has filled the buckets of everyone she encounters with warmth and compassion. Anne has been the front line to families navigating the special education process which is not easy. Sometimes they come to her scared, sad, or even angry. However, with her gentle approach and listening ear, she has guided families through their uncertain times as she offers comfort and reassurance every step of the way. Anne's legacy of compassion and kindness will forever be felt within all of us who know her.

Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services - HASD

Anne, I will miss your positivity and kindness. Anytime I had a paperwork question or a Cafe need, you were always there for me. Thank you for making my job easier and for always helping me with a smile! Happy retirement!

Katie Jahnke  
Special Education Teacher - HMS

Sweet Anne, thank you for always being there for all of us in every aspect of life! You were one of the first "faces" of HASD I had the pleasure of meeting, and your kindness, compassion, and smile was so welcoming. I'm so blessed to have you as a co-worker and friend.

Amanda Reinke  
Autism Diagnostician and Support Teacher - NGES

When I think about you, Anne, I think about your kindness, amazing smile, and non-judgmental ways for the many times that I messed something up on my paperwork. You have the gift to make everyone feel special and important. Whoever you are talking with, you give your full-attention and as much time as needed - a difficult task in this busy world! Anne, you truly care about what people share with you and are always ready to help fix any problem either personally or professionally.



*For many years, this was my image of Anne. Then, one day I walked into the office at GMS and hiding around a corner was a GORILLA - doubled over laughing at my expression of surprise - I was not her target! After that, I realized that there was another side to "our Anne"! A prankster! This new image did not take away from my initial image, but it certainly added another dimension to it. A really fun dimension!*

*Anne, you are one of a kind and will be missed dearly! Working with you over MANY years has been a true pleasure! Enjoy your days off - fill them with adventures and your beautiful grandchildren! With much love and gratitude,*

*Mary Sanders  
Special Education Teacher - GMS*

*Everyone needs an Anne in their life! She makes you feel so important and heard. I always enjoyed chatting with you when we were both at GMS. Thank you for your constant kindness and warm heart. Thank you for giving such care to our HASD families. Enjoy your new chapter with your beautiful family!*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher - NGES*

*Our team will miss Anne very much. She is generous, helpful, and one of the kindest people we know. She is very knowledgeable and is always willing to help. She truly cares about everyone around her and brightens everyone's day no matter how busy she is. Enjoy retirement Anne!*

*HES Special Ed Team*

*Congratulations to the sweet and positive voice of special education in the HASD! Always helpful, patient, and kind, you have assisted so many staff, students, and families over the years. Enjoy your retirement and know that you will be missed.*

*Janna Cochrane  
HASD Director of Learning*

*Anne, I don't know if I have ever met a kinder person. May your retirement be filled with all the things you love and bring you endless joy.*

*Christina Peterson  
HASD Director of Business Services*



## ***In Honor of Nancy Willenkamp***

*Nancy took every trip on a bus with students with the care and support she would use with her own children. The students on the bus were "her kids." A former state bus driver of the year and one the District's longest tenured employees. Thank you, Nancy. We appreciate you!*

*Todd Timm  
District Administrator*

*Nancy A Willencamp AKA "The Hammer". Why Hammer? Because a hammer is a tool, we use to build with, we use a hammer to fix and improve things that need care. Nancy has helped build some great drivers; her practical no-nonsense advice has enabled drivers to build a better rapport with their young riders, to improve behaviors on the bus. Nancy's heart of gold is shown through the care she took with her young riders throughout her career as a School Bus Driver. She took time to build a relationship with her kiddo's by getting to know each one by name, she got to know their parents and what their favorite things were. On the extremely rare occasions that Nancy would be away, the sub drivers would be questioned extensively as to where she was, and when she was coming back by her kiddo's; the caring went both ways. Nancy gives back to the community through acts of service that not many people know about, but there is one act of service that a lot of people know of- she donates a pan of 100 cookies to the Hortonville Area School District Transportation Adopt-A-Family Bucket Raffle. This is a highly sought after prize, she will deliver them to you warm as you need them till your quota is met. This woman is a bona fide hard working, family loving, service donating, treat baking, early rising, bus driving hero, and we appreciate the heck out of her! Good Luck with all you do Nancy "the Hammer" Willenkamp!*

*Brian Gooding  
HASD Director of Transportation*



***In Honor of  
Robert Zalewski***

*Robert G Zalewski AKA Bob is a larger-than-life presence in the bus garage. The timing of Bob's route makes it so that he arrives after most drivers are already on their morning routes, and in the afternoons, he is already heading off on his route before many drivers arrive to the bus garage- yet everyone knows who he is. Bob is a friendly outgoing person, many times, you will find him regaling drivers or even the students he transports, with stories of experiences he has collected over the years from his pre bus driving days. Bob is a valued part of the Transportation team and will be missed. We wish Bob luck in his future endeavors- One last time Bob, 164 out.*

*Brian Gooding  
Director of Transportation - HASD*