

Congratulations
TO OUR

**2021-2022
RETIREES**





As you enter this next chapter of your life,
we all wish you the very best that life has
to offer.

Thank you to all who contributed to our
2021-2022 Retiree Recognitions.

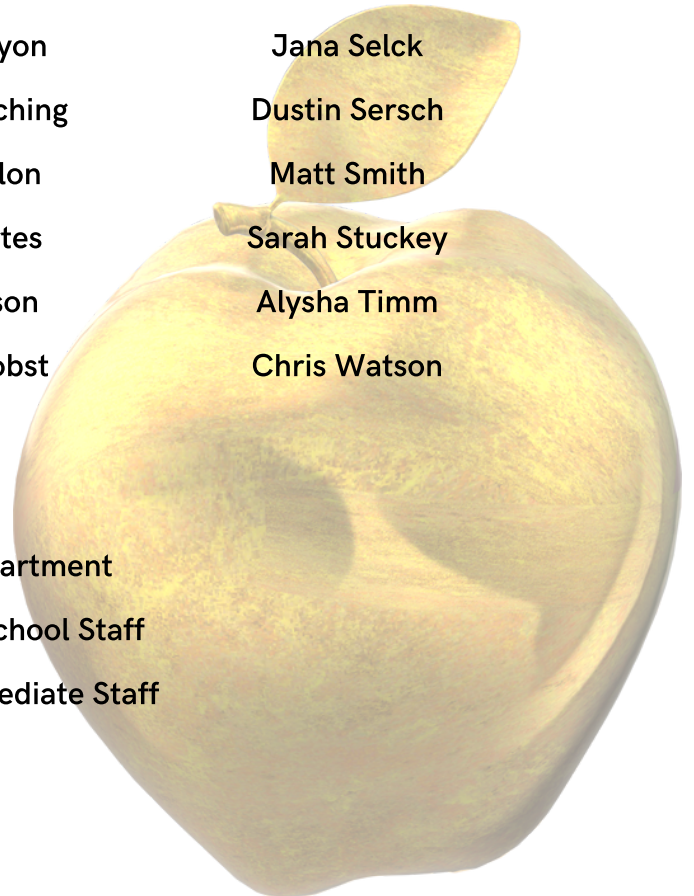
Elizabeth Bailey
Marcee Bergeron
Jeremy Bilhorn
Carey Bradley
Sheri Buescher
Jen Cramer
Bob Cullen
Jennie Greenleaf
Sarah Harvatine

Tara Huber
Rachel Janes
Zach Johnson
Amy Kenyon
Kipley Losching
Amy Mallon
Amy Mertes
Cait Nelson
Susan Probst

Julia Quade
Andy Raben
Sandy Randall
Jana Selck
Dustin Sersch
Matt Smith
Sarah Stuckey
Alysha Timm
Chris Watson

AND

MHS ELA Department
Milton Middle School Staff
Northside Intermediate Staff



Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



GREG DEVINE

6TH GRADE EDUCATOR
NORTHSIDE INTERMEDIATE

Greg Devine is one of those people who brings out the best in those around him.

A mentor to so many in our community, Mr. Devine has been a beloved educator in the School District of Milton for decades. And now, after devoting 35 years to education in Milton, we wish him continued happiness as he takes on his next chapter in life....retirement.

This "devotion to education" is one of Greg's defining characteristics. "He lives to learn," declared his co-worker Cait Nelson, "and he loves to be a teacher."

Within the classroom and beyond, Greg's love of education is infectious. In pursuing his passions for literature, music, or travel, he demonstrates that expanding one's knowledge through direct experience can feed the soul.

Greg strongly believes in (and demonstrates) the importance of mutual respect, kindness, and shared joy. Creating the ultimate lesson in these values, who could ever forget the Sock Hops he emceed for our 6th grade Red Hawks? Long-time friend and co-worker Kipley Losching described how, dressed in his tuxedo and supported by his limitless music collection and acquired DJ equipment, he was the highlight of the event as he would lead the students in a 1950s style dance-off.

His lessons in the classroom, and beyond, have helped mold a generation of rising Red Hawks. As such, his legacy will live on for generations to come.

"Mr. Greg Devine's dedication to the field of education, his colleagues, and his students / families will never be forgotten," enthused Ms. Nelson. "The lives he has positively impacted by his wisdom and patience have greatly impacted the entire community. Northside will miss all of his "dad" wisdom at school, but we are excited to hear about all his new adventures in retirement."

Congratulations

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RENEE GILLE

5TH GRADE EDUCATOR
NORTHSIDE INTERMEDIATE

During Renee Gille's 31 year tenure with the School District of Milton, she worked diligently to bring fun, interactive activities to engage her students.

According to the NIS 5th grade math team, she could always find a way to make any lesson more engaging. She brought yoga and the practice of mindfulness into her classroom.

In doing so, she hoped to teach her students tools that would benefit them in the classroom and beyond. **According to her friend and co-worker Marcey Clements, "She was gifted in sharing her knowledge of mindfulness, living in the moment, and bettering oneself. Teaching was not simply her profession but her way of life. Her talents will be greatly missed but her retirement is well deserved."**

In preparing this recognition, her friends and coworkers were adamant that Renee would not want a "fuss" made about her. Renee accomplished amazing things as an educator. She brought so much positivity and inspiration to her school community. Time and again, she went above and beyond for her students and fellow staff members. However, she always shied away from the accolades she deserved.

Respecting her humble nature, and keeping our promise not to make a "fuss," we will keep this brief: **Renee has said she became an educator because she wanted to help people. She believed the best way to do so was by empowering children with knowledge and skills. After all, children are the future of society. She can retire knowing that her mission was well and truly accomplished.**

Congratulations

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SUE SIMMONS

PHYSICAL EDUCATION TEACHER
MILTON WEST & CONSOLIDATED

For more than 30 years, the School District of Milton has been made a healthier, happier and “better” community thanks to the impact of Sue Simmons.

Teaching comes naturally to Sue. Her compassionate nature and her unequalled energy have helped her connect with her students at all age and grade levels. She was a proponent, even decades ago, of the importance of teaching through play.

She was early to see the opportunity that physical education offers to connect with students and build on essential foundational skills. Fine motor skills, gross motor skills, creative thinking, problem solving...the examples are too many to list, but she incorporated them all into her lessons. Sue even found a way to expand knowledge and promote inclusiveness by incorporating American Sign Language into her lessons!

Sue taught an understanding of “overall wellness” and established an appreciation of good nutrition, exercise, safety, and self-awareness as an essential contributor to a student’s overall academic success and lifetime readiness. She was instrumental in establishing Milton West’s “Jump Rope For Heart” annual fundraiser. She also pursued annual grant funding to ensure that recess materials were regularly renewed--an invaluable service to her school as we all know how quickly elementary aged students can wear out recess equipment.

Sue is a “community builder.” Described as “super kind and endlessly caring,” she was always checking in on her students and co-workers. She shied away from the spotlight, preferring to be the loudest cheerleader on the sidelines. **For those who have worked by her side over the years, they will miss her unforgettable laugh and her unequalled kindness.**

Her longtime friend and co-worker, Milton West 4K Teacher Sandy Randall, wanted to share, “For many years Sue has dedicated herself to educating Milton’s students, instilling a love of living a healthy lifestyle. I hope that in her retirement, she will sit back, relax, and watch those seeds she has planted grow. We all wish her all the best in this next chapter of her life.”

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BRENDA WOLFE

SCHOOL PSYCHOLOGIST
NORTHSIDE INTERMEDIATE

A truly great school psychologist is a gift to their district. Part counselor, part assessor, and part problem-solver, they are the “miracle workers” who help find the supports and solutions needed to help students find their way.

Since joining the District in 1992, Brenda Wolfe has been nothing short of a gift to our students and staff.

Brenda chose her career path as she wanted to advocate for and make a difference in the lives of children. As the lead school psychologist for the past ten years, she has had a direct, positive influence on many of the social and emotional learning initiatives within our schools. Among her many significant contributions to our District’s SEL program include her work with the District Equity Committee, reformatting the Milton Kindergarten screener, and the introduction of Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS) into our schools.

Brenda has mentored 30 school psych practicum students over the past 30 years! Many of whom have since gone on to implement Brenda’s teachings in their own districts.

Not only highly a regarded school psychologist, Brenda is described as an infinitely kind co-worker who is generous beyond measure. **“She is probably the kindest person I know and I have never heard her say a discouraging word about anyone!”** exclaimed Director of Student Services Susan Probst. **“Brenda can get along with almost anyone. Where I have seen her greatest strength is when she is working with a group of people who do not agree on the outcome. She is masterful at helping each side see the others perspectives and guide them to consensus.”**

NIS will miss Brenda Wolfe's calm demeanor, her willingness to go above and beyond to advocate for what is best for students, and her positive attitude. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

Congratulations

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BRIGID TERRY

READING TEACHER
MILTON EAST ELEMENTARY

In the School District of Milton, our elementary educators make it a priority that every student learns to read, write, and feel happy at school.

The joy of reading--a genuine love for the written word--has its seeds sown in childhood.

For 29 years, Brigid Terry has been instrumental in "planting those seeds" in our youngest Red Hawks.

From reading aloud to her students, to recounting an event from her past, Brigid has a way with words that will draw you into the story. Her positive energy and her enthusiasm are utterly captivating. She has a gift for narrative, one by which her students have endlessly benefitted.

Every student is different and learns at a different pace. As a reading interventionist, Brigid takes that to heart. Her leadership in developing reading assessments and guidebooks to support emerging readers have been instrumental in the District's broader reading intervention programming. Still, as a tireless advocate for her students, Brigid works with a "team" mindset and actively collaborates with family and fellow teachers to design strategies to set her students up for success.

When asked to describe Brigid, her fellow staff members said in unison - "She has the biggest heart." They detailed at length her happy personality, her positive energy, and her infinite capacity for kindness. "An inspiration" they called her, someone who has made a difference in the lives of so many. **"We will miss Brigid's beautiful smile, animated storytelling, compassion for teaching, and generous heart," shared friends and fellow reading teachers Julia Quade and Amy Mertes. "She has changed many lives with her dedicated teaching and is a true friend to those who are blessed to know her."**

Dr. Seuss, in his wisdom, once wrote: "The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you learn, the more places you'll go."

Thank you Brigid Terry. Because of you and all you have done for our District, there's no limit to how many places our Red Hawks will go.

Congratulations

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HOLLY NELSON

DISTRICT LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Educator, coach, mentor, and friend to all, Holly Nelson has served in many different roles in our district over the past 28 years.

Her many contributions have had such an impact that it is difficult to recall what the district was like before she joined. It is equally difficult to define how much she will be missed by all when she enters her much deserved retirement at the end of this school year

The District was fortunate enough to have Holly first join the team in the 1990s as a student teacher. It was clear even then that she was a talented educator. Soon after earning her degree, she joined the MHS English department and taught the classics of literature. Holly took a brief break from teaching to stay home with her family. When she returned to the District in 2005, she continued in sharing her passion for literature - but in her new role as head librarian of Milton East and Harmony Elementary. Ultimately, Holly became District Library Media Specialist in 2011 and returned to MHS in that role.

Holly has a wealth of experience and knowledge when it comes to literature, researching, and technology. Much like the reference librarians of years past, Holly is a human search engine. She's a "go-to resource" who is frequently sought out for assistance from staff and students, often going above and beyond to help people find answers to questions and solutions to problems, even if that means taking extra time out of her day to do so.

Holly has been described by her co-workers as an "advocate for all." As a coach, as an educator, as a mentor to so many, Holly was one who could be depended on in times of need. **"In helping others, Holly always did it with the most sincere kindness," shared MHS English Educator Jennie Greenleaf. "She never made others feel as if they were burdening her with the help and guidance they sought. Holly empowered others with her classy and genuine manner of imparting her knowledge and wisdom."**

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



WENDY MCMANUS

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

For 24 years, Wendy has been a beloved (and much depended upon) member of the Milton High School Administrative Assistant team.

Perhaps better known as "the money lady," by students, Wendy serves as the financial assistant for the high school.

Wendy's smiling face at the ticket counter has been welcoming the community to athletic events and activities for years. Behind the scenes, away from the view of the public, Wendy has put her exceptional organizational skills to use by supporting staff members create budgets and acquire materials essential for student learning.

Wendy is very humble and shared that she prefers to work in the background. When approached about her retirement recognition, she was appreciative but asked us not to make a big deal. So although we could sing her much deserved praises from the roof of the high school, we will keep our word to her.

Simply put, Wendy has given so much help and support to so many. We are incredibly grateful for all she has done. Even if she prefers to stay in the background, she will always be forefront in our hearts. We are thrilled for her and wish her all the best in her very well-deserved retirement.

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



KIM KRAUSE

EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT
DISTRICT OFFICE

For the past 23 years, the School District of Milton has depended upon Kim Krause for her extensive knowledge and experience.

As Executive Assistant to the Superintendent, Kim has been an invaluable resource and support for our district leadership team and Board of Education.

Former Board Member and long-time friend Bob Cullen remarked "Board members and administrators have come and gone, but **Kim has been a fixture and a knowledgeable resource for many years at board meetings, and has been a go-to person to get the job done right!**"

Born and raised in Milton, her familiarity and knowledge of Milton's history, community, and culture have been invaluable. Kim's sense of humor and her joyful nature shine brightly. To know Kim, is to adore her.

"Kim has been a very dedicated, knowledgeable and trusted friend of the SDM and she will be missed," added Bob. "She's a great person to work with but an even better person to know and have as a lifelong friend!"

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



JANE DOOLEY

MECAS AND NEXT STEP EDUCATOR
MECAS

Jane Dooley joined Milton in 2001. She helped form the Milton Educational Community Alternative School (MECAS), an alternative high school which provides a unique learning experience for non-traditional high school learners.

A strong advocate for students, Jane has also been a dedicated member of the District's Equity Committee and the Milton Youth Coalition.

Regarding her retiree recognition, Jane asked us to *please* keep it short and simple. Since she is such a fan of poetry, especially haikus, longtime co-worker Matt Smith composed one for her retirement.

The Next Step

Congrats Jane Dooley
Sleep, golf, drinks, friends, family
Retirement sounds great!

Congratulations on your retirement Jane and thank you for all you have done for the kids over the years. May you enjoy your next step!

--Matt Smith

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



BETH POAD

PARAPROFESSIONAL
MILTON WEST ELEMENTARY

Always supportive, always ready to help, always there to go the extra mile for her students and her co-workers, **Beth Poad has been an inspiration to all who have had the pleasure of knowing her.**

Having children of her own in the district opened Beth's eyes and her heart to what education has to offer. During the 21 years she has been with our District as a paraprofessional, she has supported innumerable students in that role. 12 years ago, her journey led her to her current position as a reading tutorial and English-learners paraprofessional.

Beth's empathetic heart feeds her passion to help students grow personally and academically. In her ability to build personal connections with each and every learner she works with, she has helped our Red Hawks thrive. She consistently seeks out professional growth opportunities to become the best possible support she can be for her students.

Reading Interventionist Jana Selck works closely alongside Beth at Milton West. She enthusiastically credits Beth for turning her students into more skilled and confident readers and writers. "Beth helps children to put the exclamation point on their skills," she proclaimed. "She ties it all together with a pretty bow that allows the children to push toward grade level."

Described as a "mover and shaker and a helper," Beth is always there to lend a hand. Need the windows cleaned? Beth will do it! Need the book bags washed? Beth will do it! Need someone to deliver milk to the classrooms, monitor the lunchroom and later attend a GoogleMeet to support our virtual learners? Beth will do it! She fills her moments looking for ways to help others and to give to the school community.

For her heart, for her help, for her seemingly endless energy and ability--Beth will be missed by all. "We will greatly miss her leadership," ELL Coordinator Amy Mallon added. "We will miss the rapport she has with the children. We will miss her pleasant demeanor."

Furthermore, Amy added she knows Beth will miss her students too. She poured her heart and soul into what she did and it showed. The connections she created with her students and coworkers will last a lifetime.

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



CHRIS DEVINE

**SPECIAL EDUCATION TEACHER
NORTHSIDE INTERMEDIATE**

Confucius, the world's first professional teacher, is credited with saying, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

With that wisdom in mind, it could be said that Chris Devine never worked a day during her 20 years with the School District of Milton. When Chris first considered her career path in college, she pursued a degree in business. However, after introspection and guidance from her professors, she realized that she felt a call to teach.

A drive to support students, particularly those with special educational needs, drew her into the field of education. Over the course of two decades she has been instrumental in developing and growing the School District of Milton's special education programming. She has also worked closely alongside her fellow special education team members to develop the district's PBIS program and Northside's SOAR program.

Pursuing what she loved made Chris an inspiration to everyone around her. Her co-workers have commented that her humor, her loving heart, and her innate sense of fun injected joy into her school building. Her habit of bringing in her delicious homemade recipes was always a welcome treat.

Beyond being the ideal co-worker and morale booster for her team, Mrs. Devine's legacy will forever be tied to the students she worked with. As much as Chris is renowned for her "light-hearted vibe" as a teacher, she is likewise described by her co-workers as a champion and tireless advocate for her students. She is universally admired for creating opportunities and programs that would best serve the students.

Her friends and co-workers have dubbed Chris a "Devine gem" through and through. As such, the value she has added to our district, our community, and most of all our students, cannot be overstated. We will genuinely treasure her forever.

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



ED HALE

HEAD CUSTODIAN
HARMONY ELEMENTARY

There are some people in this world who have an intrinsic quality that makes everyone they are near feel welcome and loved. Something about them draws young and old alike to bask in the sunshine of their kindness. **At Harmony Elementary, that person was Ed Hale.**

Mr. Hale was the head custodian at Harmony. After 20 years of devotion to the students and staff who walked the halls of Harmony, Mr. Hale began his much deserved restful retirement in August of 2021.

Mr. Hale took great pride in Harmony Elementary School. He was proud of his efforts to maintain the building, proud to be a part of the Harmony staff, and especially proud of the students. One of the best dressed on Spirit Days, Mr. Hale could be depended on to energize and inspire the staff and kids with his electric school spirit.

Friend and co-worker Andy Raben shared that Mr. Hale loved the students and genuinely wanted to see them succeed. He greeted students at the door at morning arrival with a broad smile and a word of encouragement for the day. Students could even earn a "Backstage Pass" with Mr. Hale. On these special tours, he would show the students the tech and equipment rooms that are otherwise "off limits." He would patiently explain the importance of the rooms and the purpose they served.

Harmony students were always fascinated by Mr. Hale, especially considering his resemblance to a certain "jolly old elf." Harmony Red Hawks couldn't help but ask their teachers, "Is Mr. Hale Santa?"

In addition to looking alike, the two certainly share many personality traits as well. Both are legendary for their kindness. Both are known for their contagious joy and pride in their work. Both loved working with children of all ages. But...Hey!....come to think of it...has anyone ever seen Santa and Mr. Hale in the same room at the same time?

Despite the possibility of a "dual" identity, **Mr. Hale is and always will be one of a kind. Harmony Elementary, the School District of Milton, and all of the Red Hawks he has supported over the years are better for having known him.**

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



PAULA SCHMIT

SCIENCE EDUCATOR
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Some individuals were -made- to be educators. They have a natural born enthusiasm and ability to connect with others and help them understand and grow in their education. Regardless of how their professional careers may have started, their inherent gifts, and dare we say fate, draw them toward teaching where they can let their true talents shine.

Without question, Paula Schmit was made to be an educator.

Before she was a beloved teacher in the MHS science department, Paula had a successful career as a biomedical engineer. In that field, she found joy in teaching others how the equipment worked. After moving with her family to the Milton area, she made a life changing decision...one to which countless Red Hawks have since benefitted. Paula left the engineering field and became an educator.

Lovingly known as the "Teacher Who Has Everything," her classroom amassed a treasure trove of tools, materials, knick-knacks, and what-nots to facilitate her much celebrated "hands-on" experiments for her students. Paula took pride in developing immersive opportunities for her students. For example, she arranged visits for her anatomy students to the Marquette University cadaver lab. Her forensic science students would "crack the case" by following evidence left behind in mock crime scenes. Her AP Physics students could be found throughout the high school grounds, applying physics concepts to the world around them.

In recognition of all Paula has given of herself toward education in Milton, she was the 2022 Recipient of the Milton Area Chamber of Commerce's "Educator of the Year" Award. Quoting directly from her nomination: **"Paula Schmit is one of the most dedicated educators Milton has ever seen. For years, she has worked magic in her science classroom by constantly inventing fun, creative, hands-on lessons to help students investigate crime scenes, build projectiles, and learn the intricacies of the human body. There aren't words to describe the time and effort she puts into her teaching."**

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



SUE RENNHACK

LIBRARY MEDIA PARAPROFESSIONAL
MILTON MIDDLE SCHOOL

A school community is, in so many ways, like a family. The mentoring relationships forged between staff and students, and friendships among co-workers, are often deep connections that feel downright familial.

Just as family should be, those relationships offer a “safe space,” a place where everyone feels accepted, respected, and heard. At Milton Middle School, Sue Rennhack has been that “safe space.”

Sue came to the School District of Milton over 15 years ago. During that time she has developed what her co-workers describe as a “cult following.” Through her genuine and kind nature, she has a way of connecting with others. Sue is one who asks you how you are doing, but not as a passing greeting. She most definitely wants to know what you are going through and if there is anything she can do to support you.

Her students and co-workers describe her as if they are describing a beloved matriarch. Sue has held the hands of students and co-workers during their triumphs and tragedies. She asks the students if they had enough to eat at lunch. She is sought out by students and staff alike for her advice. **Sensing her earnest nature, everyone knows they can open up to Sue. They can share everything with her and know that they are in the presence of someone who loves them, cares for them, and will be there for them however she is able.**

The “old bag” as she self-deprecatingly calls herself, is more accurately like an adored “grande dame.” As she enjoys her retirement, we hope she knows her presence will still be felt in her absence. Her seemingly limitless compassion, generosity, and joyful nature will be an ongoing inspiration to all who had the privilege of working with her.

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



ED BENNETT

CUSTODIAN
MILTON HIGH SCHOOL

Sometimes superheroes take on the most unassuming roles. In their alter egos, their quiet but essential contributions to daily life may seem so modest when they are not wearing their capes. One such humble hero is Ed Bennett.

Ed is a hero to our school, our community and even to our nation, having devoted himself to the service of others for more than 75% of his life.

Those who see him quietly, but meticulously serving as a custodian at Milton High School may not realize that Ed served his country during the Vietnam War. Rightfully proud of his service, those who work alongside him genuinely enjoy hearing him share his recollections of his time in the Marines.

Prior to joining the District, Ed worked for General Motors as a fork lift driver. He ultimately came to the School District of Milton and joined the custodial team over ten years ago.

Since then, Ed has become quite the “fixture” in the building. Known as the “light guy,” Ed both figuratively and literally has earned a reputation for “lighting up the rooms” at MHS. He was quick to repair or replace a broken bulb in any fixture throughout the school. Likewise, his contagious laughter had a way of brightening everyone’s day.

His coworkers are all extremely proud to have worked with Ed here in the School District of Milton and wish nothing but the best for him in this next chapter of life. “I am going to miss having him by my side in this building,” shared MHS Head Custodian Zach Johnson, “but I am very happy for him in his choice to retire. We are all truly blessed to say we had him as a co-worker.”

Congratulations

ON YOUR RETIREMENT!



SUSAN PROBST

**DIRECTOR OF STUDENT SERVICES
SCHOOL DISTRICT OF MILTON**

Since 2012, Susan Probst has been at the helm of our Student Services team.

In all, Susan has devoted over 39 years of her life to education. Initially trained as an elementary educator, even early on she felt a call to special education. While continuing to teach, she earned her Masters in Special Education. Since that time, she has taught at all levels as well as worked for UW-Whitewater as an adjunct professor. **Her impact on the students, staff, and districts she has been a part of will continue for even longer.**

Her capability, conscientiousness, and integrity have earned Susan the universal respect of those within our school community and beyond. She believes in, and practices a “hands-on approach,” working directly with the students and staff she served. A considerate and thoughtful director, she was nevertheless one who could be depended on to challenge her fellow District team members, always encouraging them to grow.

In looking back on the many initiatives and programs Susan has taken part in, it can be said that there are few areas in this District where her leadership has not had a direct impact. She spearheaded the Collaborative Communication Counsel, which brought in parents and guardians to share their concerns with the District and incorporate that input into improving programming. She worked closely with the special education staff to sharpen their focus on specially designed instruction to address the root cause of a student’s challenge in school. She worked with the student services staff to integrate trauma-informed, and social-emotional learning into the buildings.

“Susan has a unique ability to problem solve with others, allowing those around her to feel valued and challenged as part of the process,” shared Milton East Principal Jennifer Cramer. “She does this while ensuring that the students’ best interests remain the focal point.”

One of Susan’s core beliefs is that everyone has gifts and talents. She has an unequalled ability to identify those gifts in others, nurture them, and draw them out. She likewise inspires others to adopt that same mindset. Her influence and her genuine belief that everyone has something positive to contribute has spread widely and created a more inclusive and successful district that supports students and staff to be their best selves.

**In closing, on behalf of the School District of Milton we would like to say:
Susan, thank you for being you.**