



# Bobcat Insider



Salute to  
our Retirees

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For Employees of the Marshalltown Community School District

May 2017



**Grant Brintnall**

Grant started in the district in 1984 after one year teaching in Storm Lake. He has worked at Miller his entire MCSD career. He had a wide range of teaching and coaching hats and added the role of athletic director in 2006. He retires as a resource teacher at Miller.

**What's next?**

"I am wide open at this time. I will continue to work, I just don't know what that will look like at this point. I'm excited to explore new opportunities."

**Memories of MCSD**

"I have had a great teaching career. It was truly a privilege to be hired by MCSD. What was really neat was to go back to Miller and teach with many of the great teachers that taught me in the 70's when I was a junior high student. I've worked with some great administrators too! R. McFarland, J. Trullinger, R. Jordan, P. Kremer, R. Doyle, S. Williams, J. Longnecker, L. Vial and Brad Clement. All these gentlemen had a common sense approach to leading, learning and teaching."



**Kay Burr**

Kay started in the district in 1985 as a substitute teacher and then became a substitute caller in 1987, where she has worked for 30 years until retiring this year.

**What's next?**

"Continue to volunteer at the Caring Center and Emergency Food Box"

**Memories of MCSD**

"I've worked with a lot of people. Some of them I've met and became friends with and some of them I've called all these years and I don't have a clue what they look like."

The Marshalltown Community School District Bobcat Insider is distributed as a project of the District's Communications Office. Unless indicated, articles are written by Andrew Potter, Director of Communications for Marshalltown Schools. Articles and story ideas may be submitted to the editor, Andrew Potter, Central Office, 1002 S. 3rd Ave. Marshalltown, IA 50158 or [apotter2@marshalltown.k12.ia.us](mailto:apotter2@marshalltown.k12.ia.us).

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**Kathy Ferguson**

Kathy started as a long term substitute in a Franklin kindergarten classroom in 1982. Kathy has worked for 34 years in the district, teaching 23 years at Woodbury in second and third grades and 11 years in third grade at Franklin, where she retires from.

**What's next?**

“My retirement will allow me to spend more time with my family. My son, Grant, lives in northern Minnesota. My daughter, Ashley, and son-in-law, Ryan, live in Florida. They blessed me with my grandson, Maddox, who is now two and a half years old. Grandbaby #2 is due the end of July. The beginning of the 2017-2018 school year will find me in Florida enjoying my grandchildren. I'm also looking forward to unlimited time in my yard and flower beds.”

**Memories of working at MCSD**

“My sincere thanks to MCSD for 34 years. I have worked with many hard-working, talented, and compassionate colleagues. I will miss all of you very much. My students and their families have enriched my life and taught me what is truly important. I feel blessed to have spent my entire career at MCSD.”



**Barb Gummert**

Barb has worked 19 total years in the district as a paraeducator. She spent one year at Fisher Elementary and retires after 18 years at Franklin Elementary.

**What's next?**

“I hope to do some volunteer work and travel.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“I will miss the kids the most. Most of them are so eager to learn. Nothing can replace the feeling you get when that ‘light bulb’ finally comes on.”



**Deb Johnson**

Deb started teaching in Marshalltown in 1988 at Lenihan and then went Miller. She left MCSD for one year to go to AEA but returned in 1999 and has taught at Miller ever since. She retires as a special education teacher.

**What's next?**

“Early retirement is coming at a time when I need to help my parents who are in failing health. I hope to find a second career, which may or may not involve art and music. I also am planning on trips to the northwest to visit family and friends. I can't wait to go to Sitka, Alaska. I also plan to farm.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“I have enjoyed getting to know a wide variety of students and their families and have worked with some of the best teachers ever. My special education and general education teams are fantastic! The students in this district are in excellent hands.”



**Melissa Keeler**

Melissa started working for the district in March 1976. She has worked at Albion Elementary, Marshalltown High School, Glick Elementary and Franklin Elementary, where she is retiring as secretary.

**What's next?**

“Plan to travel and relax.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“Have enjoyed my 41 years with the district.”



**Bret Lee**

Bret retires as instrumental music director at Marshalltown High School. He has worked at MCSD since 1999, primarily at MHS but also has worked with Lenihan and Miller students.

**What's next?**

“JoEllen and I look forward to a new adventure and plan to move south. I still want to teach as long as I am effective and am seeking an elementary or middle school band position that allows more time at home with my wife.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“I have been honored and privileged to work for MCSD for 18 years. So many wonderful students, teachers, staff and administrators. Best to everyone as MCSD continues to move forward and provide for the students.”



**Mary Oetker**

Mary started working at Fisher Elementary as a first grade teacher in August 2000 after working with AEA 6 in Grinnell. After teaching a year in first grade, Mary then moved to kindergarten at Fisher where she stayed until her retirement this year.

**What's next?**

“My plans after retirement would include spending time with family and friends, sitting lakeside in Okoboji and enjoying my new role as Grandma!”

**Memories of MCSD**

“Thank you, to my Fisher family and students, you will forever be a big part of my heart!”



**Marilyn Rhodes**

Marilyn retired in January after working 65 years as executive assistant to the superintendent. She worked with seven different superintendents during her phenomenal career.

**What's next?**

“I am ready to enjoy time with my friends and family. Now I can plan to visit my children and grandchildren and not have to worry about cutting my visit short to return to my work because a school board meeting is due. Also, I know my Iowa Hawkeyes need my full time support!”

**Memories of MCSD**

“I have been blessed making life-long friendships with many school employees and students and also with many people in the Marshalltown community and in the state of Iowa. Seeing so many of these special friends at my retirement reception (held April 14) was absolutely wonderful. And it was so special to share the reception experience with my 4 children and 4 grandchildren.”



**Cindy Seberger**

Cindy started in the district in the fall of 2002 as the Miller Middle School kitchen manager, where she retires from this year.

**What's next?**

“Looking forward to some traveling and more grandma time, with some gardening, quilting and volunteering thrown into the mix.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“Loved working here. It's been my pleasure to work with the greatest bunch of people. They have shared and taught me so much. I will certainly miss them and all the students. They are all special.”



**Vicki Vopava**

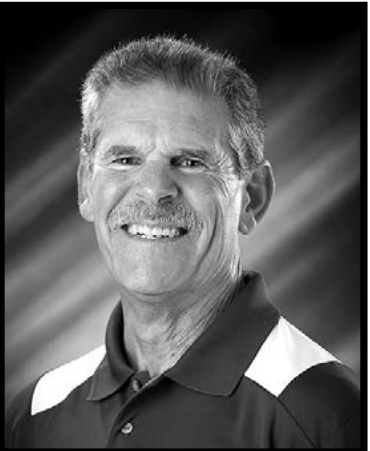
Vicki retires as principal at Fisher Elementary School. She started in the district in 1992 as an early childhood special education teacher at Lenihan. She was relocated to Fisher and at the staff annex building then to moved to Hoglan as a resource teacher. She became principal of Fisher Elementary in 2005.

**What's next?**

“Spending time with family, especially our grandchildren, reading and enjoying time at the lake.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“It has been a privilege to spend my career with such strong, intelligent, nurturing adults who truly care



**Don Wiser**

Don started in Marshalltown in 1978 after 5 years in Keokuk. He has taught physical education at Hoglan, Palmer, Glick, Woodbury and Anson elementary schools with a total of 39 years. He retires from Anson. He also coached for decades at the middle school level.

**What's next?**

“Travel and camp then come back to sub and coach when I can.”

**Memories of MCSD**

“My goals for teaching have always been: teach with energy, search for better ways to teach, be a good role model and make physical fitness fun. I hope my students and athletes can look back on their time with me and smile. I want to thank all of the teachers, administrators and coaches I have had the pleasure of teaching with over the years. It's been fun.”



**Join us as we honor the retirees during the MEA/MCSD retirement tea at 4 p.m. Wednesday, May 17 in Dejardin Hall on the MCC campus.**

