

Anamosa Community District Retirees

Ellen Reddies – 2 Years in District

Life and Career History:

It all started for Ellen when her daughter volunteered her to help in her kindergarten classroom. Ellen loved it and soon after, she worked as a para for 5 years in Ft Myers, FL. After moving back to Iowa, Ellen started the teaching program at Iowa. Ellen student taught in the trailers at Strawberry Hill, taught 5 years in Olin, 13 years in Dubuque and is ending her career with 2 years at AMS. Ellen feels like she has come full circle. “It’s been an awesome journey!”

Favorite Memory:

“My favorite memories will be the strong relationships I have built with students, their families and my co-workers. Last year, students and I took over the concession stand. It was awesome to see their confidence grow as they communicated with customers and gave correct change.”

Julie Frankfurt – 15 Years in District

Life and Career History:

Julie began her teaching career at Marion High School as an Instructional Strategist I for a semester after earning her degree at Mt. Mercy. The following year Julie was hired at Anamosa High School to fill a Level I position in a special education classroom. After five years in special education, she was very fortunate to fill the shoes of one of her favorite teachers of all time, Gary Heiar, and she has been teaching Social Studies ever since.

Favorite Memory:

“Traveling with students to Washington, D.C., London, Paris, Munich and other sites in Europe was one of the highlights of my life let alone career. To see Europe through students' eyes impacted me greatly. Equally rewarding, truly, is making connections with my students and celebrating their successes every single day right here in Anamosa.”

JoAnn Hinz – 15 Years in District

Life and Career History:

JoAnn has been a paraeducator in the district for 15 years. She is looking forward to retirement and spending extra time with her grandchildren.

Brenda Farrington – 16 Years in District

Life and Career History:

Brenda's career began when she volunteered at the Midland District then was soon hired as Guidance Counselor Secretary. Brenda worked as At Risk Assistant and then was hired through a grant for the Alternative School at Kirkwood. In 2002 Brenda began her career at Anamosa High School as Level 2/3 Special Education Paraeducator.

Favorite Memory:

“Working with our students and watching them grow and be successful for 16 years!”

Dan Husmann – 16 Years in District

Life and Career History:

Dan is a 1970 graduate of Anamosa High School. He attended University of Northern Iowa for one year and Kirkwood Community College for two years, getting a degree in supermarket management. His first career was 26 years with Nash Finch Company, six in Minot, North Dakota and the rest in Cedar Rapids in various levels of retail management. The last ten years he was a junior executive in the position of Division Retail Manager responsible for thirty corporate retail supermarkets in Iowa and Illinois. In 1999 Dan left Nash Finch to attend Mount Mercy College for three years to get his degree in secondary education with endorsements in business and marketing. In 2002 Dan took the position of Business Education teacher at Anamosa High School. Dan and his wife Gail have been married for 46 years. They have a daughter Amy, son Ben and nine grandchildren.

Favorite Memory:

“The times when past students contact me and reflect on how much a class or classes they took of mine helped them be successful in college or a career.”

Terri McConaughy – 21 Years in District

Life and Career History:

Terri started out in the district as a transportation escort for one year and has been a bus driver for 20 years. Terri and her husband Larry live in Morley and have been married 39 years. Their daughter Sarah and her husband live in Norway and they have been blessed with four Viking grandsons. They also have a daughter Shawna and her husband who live in Urbandale and they have one daughter.

Favorite Memory:

Terri's favorite memory is greeting the new little Kindergarten children each year with their big backpacks that make it almost impossible to make it up the bus steps.

Nancy Kula – 38 Years in District

Life and Career History:

Nancy received her Bachelors in K-12 Art Education from Iowa State in 1980 and Master of Arts in Education from Marycrest in 1988. She began her career at Anamosa High School the fall of 1980 and has taught high school art for that entire time! She started in the basement with six students in a class and has grown the department to over eleven different offerings, with large class enrollments. Nancy has seen education change from an eight period day with study halls and purple ditto to four-block and now A/B block and Standards Based Grading. What hasn't changed is her love of all things art and student success! Nancy and her husband Dwayne have three daughters. Laura and Erik Knox live with grandson Connor in Topeka, Kansas. Melissa and Greg Vernon live in Kansas City, Missouri. Allison Kula and Nick Petruzi live in Chicago, Illinois.

Favorite Memory:

“There are so many! But helping the school win \$100,000 was kind of cool! A team effort that paid off well!”