



# RETIREE SHOWCASE

## SUE TEETS



**MRS. TEETS**

Today, we celebrate the 31-year academic career of our colleague, Mrs. Susan Teets. Her journey includes serving as a teaching assistant for remedial reading, elementary librarian, Accelerated Reader Coordinator, high school library Teaching Assistant, and learning support Teaching Assistant. Mrs. Teets attended Toccoa Falls College in Toccoa, GA, and received her Teaching Assistant certification from the State University of New York at Fredonia. Her journey started at Lima Rescue Home, working with inner-city youth before beginning her teaching career as a substitute at Mayville and Westfield Schools prior to her appointment as a Teaching Assistant for Mayville Central in 1993. Sue also served in the Ohio National Guard and Georgia National Guard.

Mrs. Teets' service in both the Ohio National Guard and the Georgia National Guard highlights her dedication to serving her country and community beyond her educational and professional endeavors. Sue teaches women's bible study at the Community Bible Church in Mayville, where she serves with her husband, Pastor Mark Teets. Mrs. Teets also does landscaping and volunteer work at Camp Onyahsa, where her daughter and son-in-law are camp directors.

Mrs. Teets' unique ability to blend her passions for both reading and sports has inspired and influenced many students and adults along the way. She is gracious and straightforward, always going above and beyond to encourage her students. Jim Tennes remarked, "Sue Teets is an amazing person! She is patient, kind, understanding, humorous, and creative. All these traits have made her the perfect person to work with the CLake Learning Support Department. She regularly has some of the most reluctant students and is adept at getting them to complete their work. She maintains a firm but extremely fair classroom environment and students regularly seek her out for help and advice. Sue has been making sure that no child has to go hungry with her weekend food program and continues to feed our students during the day to make sure that learning can occur." Kaitlin Spoon shared, "Sue provided a warm and welcoming haven for the students at Chautauqua Lake. She was always available to listen to their concerns and offer her assistance in any way possible. Sue often went out of her way to ensure the children were well taken care of, providing them with snacks and a comforting presence. Her kindness and dedication created a supportive environment, and she will be tremendously missed by the kids."

She notes that the most rewarding part of her job was, by far, the students! With her humble self-assessment, Mrs. Teets feels that her biggest contribution in her career has been her ability to make connections with the students and being able to listen and help them in any way that she could. Throughout her tenure, she has mastered the skill of being able to adapt at a moment's notice. Mrs. Teets shared that "she never looked at her position as a job and she truly loved all the time spent interacting with the students." She goes on to share how great it was to see the potential of each individual student. If she had been able to teach another subject, History would have been her next choice. When asked what she might have done if she wasn't a teacher, she thoughtfully replied, "something sports related" and would have loved to work in the NFL.

Mrs. Teets has many favorite memories, including time spent in the Mayville School, the awesome Accelerated Reader nights, presenting her children with their High School diplomas, and especially “the time spent with her colleagues.” Marcy Roush added, “Sue is a wonderful friend who is very dedicated to the students and always wants the best for them. She will always lend an ear and listen to the students and offer them words of wisdom or encouragement. And yes, snacks too!! Sue would even get the reluctant learners to strive for success with her positive outlook and engagement with students. Sue will be missed greatly at CLCS!” Being in a school setting allowed her to pursue her pathway to coaching High School sports, which is highlighted with the 2018 Class C State Softball Championship and being named NYS “Class C” Coach of the Year. Through her 28 years coaching softball and ongoing 24 years coaching tennis, “Teeto” cherishes numerous memories, including great practices, bus rides, tennis matches, softball games, and team bonding at softball competitions in Myrtle Beach.



Mrs. Teets’ advice to students is “dream the impossible.” By dreaming big, Mrs. Teets likely hopes to inspire students to push beyond their comfort zones, find their passion, and strive for excellence. She encourages young teachers and peers to “think outside the box” and to always “have fun!” Rachel Curtin expressed, “Sue brings her sense of adventure, humor, and duty to students wherever she goes. Behind the scenes, she’s filling in snacks, supplies, sneakers... you name it. She puts service above self. Einstein penned that ‘Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance you must keep moving.’ I have no doubt that Sue will continue to roll down her trail with the joy, strength, and perseverance that she has shown to our school, and live it to the fullest. Thanks for taking the opportunity to ride and lead the kids to adventure. Every good thought goes with you down the trail.”

Plans for retirement include getting back into ministry and doing all the “little things she hasn’t had time to do like scrapbook, paint, garden, trying out all the trails with her mountain bike, and of course, try new things!” She is particularly looking forward to never having lunch duty again. She leaves us all with this inspiration from college football coach Bobby Bowden, Sr.: “don’t go to the grave with a life unused.”

We are deeply grateful for your contributions and we wish you all the very best. Happy Trails!