



RETIREE SHOWCASE KATHY WILSON



MS. WILSON

Today's Retiree Showcase features distinguished retiree Ms. Kathy Wilson, Family and Consumer Science Teacher. Ms. Wilson has taught grades 6-12 throughout her 38-year tenure with 27 years at Ripley Central School District followed by 11 years concurrently at both Westfield Central School and Chautauqua Lake Central School. Ms. Wilson completed her Undergraduate Degree and Mercyhurst College and then went on to complete her Master's Degree at the State University at Fredonia.

When asked to consider what was the best part of her job, she shared that "it was the students and seeing their 'ah-ha!' moments. She also enjoyed having generations of families and shared that students had a hard time believing her when she told them that their parents, and even some of their grandparents, were her students!" When asked what led her to a teaching career she said "I truly enjoyed my middle school/high school Home Economics experience and felt the classes made sense -- nobody ever asked When are we going to use this in real life? My family is full of teachers going back generations. It seemed like the perfect match and it certainly was; I have enjoyed the ride." Ms. Wilson's hands-on approach to teaching life-long skills to students has made a lasting impact for generations of students.



When asked what was your biggest contribution, Ms. Wilson humbly replied, "I would like to think that I made an impact on the lives of students in such a way that the life skills they gained in my classes will help them become caring, contributing, responsible, parents and/or community members." Colleague Jessica Cowan echoes that sentiment and shares how fortunate CLCS has been to have Kathy as part of our faculty noting that she has "stepped into the gap to teach students important life skills needed to be successful adults." Mrs. Cowan was quick to mention how much she appreciated all the times Kathy let her stop in to sample their latest culinary treats. Kathy developed a valuable skill in being flexible and adaptable over the years noting that she learned quickly that things happen and you must adjust.



If she could have taught something different she noted perhaps Career Counselor or Sewing/Craft Instructor. If she were not a teacher she may have continued with her early career path of working in Retail Management where she worked for several years in Dallas, TX.



Her plans for retirement include enjoying the company of her mom and dad on a regular basis. She and her grandson, Landon, will be rockin' Elementary School and all the fun that comes with that! She plans on traveling more to her daughter's in Seneca, SC and will visit other friends and family around the States. Words of advice for a student are to "hang in there, keep smiling, walk with purpose and remember -- you always have a choice--make the right one!" Her advice for younger teachers is to "ask for help, become involved, join a "Lunch Bunch!" CLCS is fortunate that Ms. Wilson will continue to be with us on a part-time basis in the fall teaching 7th and 8th grade where she plans to keep having fun and enjoying the extra free time. Her parting advice is to students - "you got this! Be happy, be kind, and don't sweat the small stuff!"



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