

Good Afternoon Everyone,

Our Chautauqua Lake Family is honored to showcase our 2021 teacher retirees beginning with Mrs. Kimberly McMahon. The article is based on information gathered from interviews with Mrs. McMahon, former & present students and her fellow colleagues.



Since graduating from Fredonia State University in 1988, Mrs. McMahon has taught in the former Mayville Central School & Chautauqua Lake Central School District for 33 years! According to Kim, "I have always loved children. I knew from a young age that I wanted to become a teacher of young children - to help each child become the best they could possibly be."

Mrs. McMahon shared "that the best part of her job has been watching children grow and develop - to see them learn and do things they didn't think they could ever do - to see them succeed as readers - to witness the joy on their faces when they could finally do it. Priceless." Current Kindergartner, Jackson Cannon affirms her career choice saying "she is a great teacher because she is full of kindness!"

Mrs. McMahon reminisced about some of the many fond memories during her remarkable instructional tenure. She notes that she has enjoyed "creating life-long bonds with many families over the years-seeing children I had in Kindergarten succeed in high school, in college, in athletics, in the military and in life. Another very special memory is being part of the volleyball coaching staff in the late 80s and early 90s - and winning States with a very special group of young ladies. I have many fond memories with my colleagues - who have become forever friends. I will cherish these friendships forever."

Mrs. Majka, her colleague and friend, echoes these sentiments about Kim sharing "she has been a positive influence in the lives of all the children who walk through her classroom door. She has brought rays of sunshine to all the lives she touches with her bright smile, kind words, hugs and caring elbow bumps. She is passionate about teaching, always looking for ways to improve the lives of her kids and never one to look for recognition. She is always sure her kids feel loved and cared for. Once you are in Mrs. McMahon's class you are hers for life. Her warmth and caring provides children a fantastic start to their years in school. She is everything a good kindergarten teacher should be and more."



Former student and current Board of Education member, Zach Stahlsmith says he “ will never forget having Mrs. McMahon as a teacher. She made me feel welcome as a scared little kindergartener, and made me excited about learning to read books. Thanks for everything, Mrs. McMahon. Enjoy this time with your family and here’s to many fun-filled adventures for you! Oh, and by the way, I still have my yellow crayon box.”

We appreciate the parting words of wisdom, from Mrs. McMahon “My advice...don’t get so caught in time restraints - and teaching the curriculum. Focus on each individual child. Meet them where they are and go from there. Children will remember everything you say and do. They will always remember how you made them feel. Students don’t care how much you know - until they know how much you care.”

After her retirement Mrs. McMahon plans on spending more time with her grandson, travelling to Florida more often and golfing, a lot!

Mrs. McMahon shared these parting sentiments. “MCS/CLCS has been my world for 33 years. I have loved everything about it - the students, their families, and my colleagues. I will truly miss absolutely everything about CLCS. I will, however, be back to sub as often as needed.”



Mrs. McMahon on behalf of the Chautauqua Lake community we thank you for your service, kind heart and compassion. Thank you for being such a positive role model not only for our students but for our entire Chautauqua Lake community. We cannot fully express our gratitude for all that you have done for all of us over the years. Enjoy your grandson, your family and your retirement and remember that your Chautauqua Lake family is here for you if you ever need anything.



Respectfully,
Josh & the CL Family