

Today our Chautauqua Lake Family is honored to showcase one of our 2021 teacher retirees, Mr. Craig Riedesel. Mr. Riedesel's 30-year tenure in teaching at the Mayville Central School and in Chautauqua Lake Central School District began after graduating from Fredonia State University. He later completed his Masters Degree at the University at Buffalo and completed certifications in both K-6 and 7-12 Math.

During summers, Mr. Riedesel worked with his father, a teacher and college professor, writing grants that helped teach computer skills to teachers. Working with those teachers affirmed his passion for becoming a teacher himself.

At Chautauqua Central School, Mr. Riedesel's career has undoubtedly positively impacted faculty, staff and students. He "feels lucky" to have been able to teach a variety of things he was interested in during the course of his career. During his tenure, he has taught K-12 computer classes and was the Technology Coordinator. After the merger of the Chautauqua Central and Mayville Central Schools, he went on to be the middle school Computer and Technology Coordinator before advancing to the District Technology Coordinator position. In 2007, he began to teach 7th grade math before making a transition to 6th grade science and social studies for the last six years of his career. Mr. Riedesel's favorite subjects to teach were college credit computer programming (high school elective) and 6th grade science.



Mrs. Logan Betts shared, "After working with Craig for several years, I have come to appreciate his dry sense of humor and his ability to challenge students. He goes out of his way to provide students with hands-on opportunities to learn and experiment by bringing in duck eggs, teaching them code, and building rockets." Mr. Tom McFall echoes Mrs. Betts comments sharing out, "I have been working with and known Craig for 29 years, dating back to when he was the computer teacher/coordinator back at Chautauqua Central School. But, until recently, I haven't worked closely with him. I have really enjoyed his sense of humor and have also enjoyed working with him on the 6th grade team. He is a team player and is always willing to adapt to the situation." Current 6th grader, Liam Schulz notes that Mr. Riedesel is his favorite teacher, sharing that "he tells jokes that make the class laugh and he teaches with a positive attitude."

Mr. Riedesel recalls a favorite memory from when he was teaching JCC computer programming and led his students to the Fredonia State programming competition. Craig stated, "the teams were given a limited amount of time to work on 5 programming problems. His team was able to solve all five and win the competition. No other team in the history of the competition had solved all five problems."

Looking toward retirement, Mr. Riedesel noted that he has enjoyed working with the dedicated staff and with many wonderful children. He plans to start a woodworking business, making furniture and selling hardwood lumber. It is noteworthy that Mr. Riedesel is already an accomplished woodworker with a growing reputation for being a master of his craft. He is looking forward to finally getting to travel when everyone else is not also travelling.



Mr. Riedesel leaves us with this advice: "Don't get too focused and stressed about day-to-day problems and annoyances; they fade away. Try to focus on the successes." Mr. Riedesel, we applaud you on your many successes and wish you the very best in your future. Your passion for education, specifically in the computer, math and science fields, has been inspiring and has led to many great educational experiences for our students. We wish the best of luck with your future endeavors, specifically we wish you safe travels and look forward to seeing the progress of your woodworking skills.

Respectfully,
Josh & the Chautauqua Lake Family