

Today our Chautauqua Lake Family is honored to spotlight one of our 2021 teacher retirees, Ms. Joyce Walzer. She began her teaching career after graduating from Fredonia State University with a BA in History and receiving an M.Ed. in Social Studies from Edinboro State University.



For Ms. Walzer, her choice to become a teacher was influenced by one of her high school social studies teachers. That decision to enter education would lead to a teaching career spanning 45 years. "Ms. Walzer always made class exciting and compelling for students," shares student Hannah Bretz. "She is appreciated by students and staff alike. She will be missed."

"I have known Joyce as both a student and a colleague, and I feel blessed to have known her in both of these roles," adds Mrs. Rachel Swan. "She is a dedicated teacher who truly loves her students, who continues to learn and improve her lessons over the years and never wants to stop having a positive impact in others' lives even after retirement. Thank you Joyce for the kindness, dedication, respect and hard work you have modeled for all of us."

Ms. Walzer has enjoyed creating and adjusting lesson plans to stimulate interest in the topic at hand while inspiring students to learn more at the same time. "Aside from being a master teacher to the students, Ms. Walzer has been an example for fellow staff," according to Mr. Nicholas Caughel. "Empathetic to her students, their academic needs and their lives outside of school, Joyce has been a bright spot in the lives of so many of our students through the years. The passion and enthusiasm that Ms. Walzer displays when telling the students one of her favorite stories from world history is something those of us so fortunate to have the opportunity to work with her will never forget."

Looking ahead to retirement, Ms. Walzer plans to attend more Bills games, especially the away games. She also plans to spend more time enjoying biking and boating. One of her favorite memories she will take away from Chautauqua Lake will be receiving the yearbook dedication in 2019.

"The eight years at CLCS have been the best eight years of my career," says Ms. Walzer. "I will miss my colleagues who also became my friends. I will miss the many students who, when I hear their name, will bring a smile to my face."

When it comes to advice for other teachers, Ms. Walzer stresses the importance of continually evaluating lessons and adjusting them to meet student needs. "Be prepared to work more than 40 hours a week. Be fair, be consistent and let the students know you care."

Ms. Walzer leaves us with this quote from Voltaire: "Appreciation is a wonderful thing; it makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well." She adds, "I so appreciate my years at Chautauqua Lake Central School." Ms. Walzer, we thank you for your commitment to sharing the world with our students and applaud your four and a half decades of service in education. We wish you all of the best with your plans for the future!



Respectfully,
Josh & the Chautauqua Lake Family