

# Hortonville Area School District

## Staff Recognition Program



2024-2025

*Polar Bears BELIEVE that anything is possible!*

*(Entire Program can be found on the District website under District Staff Recognition)*

A decorative border with floral and vine motifs surrounds the central text area.

# Program

5:00 PM	Social Time
5:55 PM	Dinner Prayer
	Janna Cochran
6:00 PM	Dinner
6:45 PM	Door Prizes
7:35 PM	Awards
8:15 PM	Social Time

*Special Performances:*  
*HASBand &*  
*Community Choir*

## **HONOREES**

### **5 YEARS**

*Michelle Agnew*  
*Shawna Alvarado*  
*Michelle Bartelt*  
*Jenna Bartmann*  
*Amanda Bricco*  
*Tess Engelland*  
*Emily Evenson*  
*Ashley Everts*  
*Anna Frato*  
*Bryan Hauser*  
*Katie Hawley*  
*Jordanna Hefter*  
*Paige Hotovec*  
*Jessica Kleier*  
*Dani Knowski*  
*Kristle Ley*  
*Crystal Ludwig*  
*Alicia Mueller*  
*Tyler Norton*  
*Nicole Parys*  
*Christina Peterson*  
*Lynn Relien*  
*Laura Schmidt*  
*Rebecca Schuette*  
*Jennifer Van Asten*  
*Mackenzie Van Rens*

### **10 YEARS**

*William Brown*  
*Joanne Bunnell*  
*Andrea Farrell*  
*Heather Feltz*  
*Justin Foth*  
*Kathleen Kleiber*  
*April Lee*  
*Bradley Leeman*  
*Jane LeVande*  
*Jesse Powell*  
*Sheila Powers*  
*Brandon Radtke*  
*Amanda Reinke*  
*Julie Remme*  
*Nicole Roehlig*  
*Lori Smits*  
*Matthew Stormer*  
*Kristin Trochil*  
*Tracie VanDenEng*  
*Melissa Vandeurzen*

### **15 YEARS**

*Ashley Brei*  
*Melissa Cordy*  
*Erika Gergits*  
*Thomas Kolosso*  
*Tamie Neilson*  
*Michelle Olson*  
*Sandra Renner*  
*Timothy Rietveld*

### **20 YEARS**

*Carie Eiting*  
*Sarah Gilbert*  
*Lisa Krizizke*  
*Susan Malueg*  
*Penelope Miller*

### **25 Years**

*Wayne Acker*  
*Jeffrey Ehlke*  
*Jennifer Gassner*  
*Susan Patch*  
*Laura Rothe*  
*Kristen Zullner*

### **30 Years**

*Teri Dillenberg*  
*Paul Frazier*  
*Thomas Kraus*  
*Jill Scott Danke*



*Polar Bears BELIEVE that  
anything is possible!*  
***Congratulations Honorees!***

## RETIREEES

*Lisa Ales – 34 Years – Hortonville Elementary - Teacher*  
*Laurie Behnke – 26 Years – Greenville Elementary - Aide*  
*Lisa Borowski – 17 Years – North Greenville Elementary - Teacher*  
*Jeffery Brightwell – 24 Years – Hortonville High - Teacher*  
*Craig Dreier – 18 Years – Board of Education*  
*Cari Eggen – 23 Years – District Librarian*  
*Paul Frazier – 30 Years – Hortonville Middle – Teacher*  
*Sara Ratchman – 28 Years – Greenville Middle – Speech Therapist*  
*Jill Scott Danke – 30 Years – Greenville Middle - Teacher*  
*Wendy Sontag – 30 Years – Hortonville Elementary - Teacher*  
*Ann Sullivan – 28 Years – Hortonville High – Teacher*  
*Jayne Ziegler – 29 Years – Transportation – Bus Driver*  
*Kristen Zullner – 25 Years – Hortonville High - Teacher*



*Often when you think you're at  
the end of something, you're at  
the beginning of something else.  
Enjoy your retirement!*



*“A Substitutes is .... Someone understanding, being steady through illness, trials, and the unexpected, while teaching, helping, and encouraging our students.”*

*To all our Substitutes that have dedicated their time for 10 or more years here in the Hortonville Area School District, we Thank You for your support and dedication.*

*Eric Baer  
Jerry Bronson  
Paula Cole  
Jennifer Kalbus  
Jason Kirby  
Andrea McKeever  
Lynn Schleitwiler  
Gary Timm*

**Hortonville Area School District**  
**Board of Education**

President – Robert VanDenElzen  
Vice President – Dana Ramshak  
Treasurer – Andrea Marcks-Ziegler  
Clerk – Brett Eidahl

Jessica Hartjes  
Klay Heise  
Aaron Tomlinson

District Administrator – Mr. Todd Timm

*On behalf of the Board of Education, thank you, honorees, and retirees, for your years of service and dedication in the Hortonville Area School District.*

*Thank you to Amanda Kabat, HHS Art Teacher, for the donation of clay pots for our table decorations.*



*HASD Mission Statement:  
“Our District ensures every student learns at the highest level.”*

# *Book Selections from the Retirees:*

*“There is more treasure in books than in all  
the pirate’s loot on Treasure Island.”*

*Walt Disney*



## *You are Special*

By:  
Max Lucado

### *Dedicated in Honor of Lisa Ales*

*I picked this book because I hope that every student who has walked through my classroom door over the last 34 years has felt truly special. I believe the most important thing a teacher can provide to a student is a feeling of self-worth. This story emphasizes that each person is unique and valuable. It encourages kindness, empathy, and individuality--something that I hope the students in my classroom learned and carried with them throughout their lives.*

*Lisa Ales  
June 2025  
Hortonville Elementary  
3<sup>rd</sup> Grade Teacher  
1991-2025*





## *What the Road Said*

By:  
Cleo Wade

*Dedicated in Honor of  
Laurie Behnke*

*I picked this book because it gives a message of how we can handle our journey through life. We have so many questions and fears as we travel down the road of life. The road says be brave and keep going. Be kind and loving. Ask for help when you need it and be a leader. This book gives a simple message of encouragement that we all need sometimes. Keep going and enjoy the journey.*

*Laurie Behnke  
June 2025  
Greenville Elementary  
Lunchroom/Playground & Library Aide  
1999-2025*

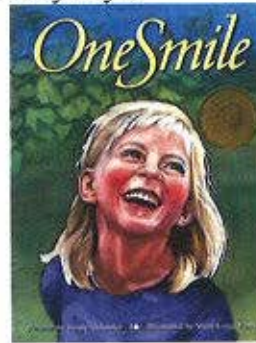


## One Smile

By:  
Sharon Draper

### *Dedicated in Honor of Lisa Borowski*

*I chose this book because it shares a very simple way to change the world--with one smile!  
I have had the blessing of teaching young children for 40 years, and I know that "One Smile" teaches them that they can make a difference in someone's day with this simple act of kindness.  
Giving other's "One Smile" is something we all should be doing every day!!!*



#### **Short Bio**

*In 2008, my family and I moved to Greenville, and I was excited to start working in the Hortonville Area School District. I began my work as a Gifted and Talented Resource Teacher, and then became a Math Coach and Interventionist. It was a privilege to have worked in all three elementary schools with the last being North Greenville Elementary. These last 17 years have been a blessing.*

**Lisa Borowski**

**June 2025**

**North Greenville Elementary School**

**Math Coach and Interventionist**

**2008-2025**



## 1,000 Places to See Before You Die

By:  
Patricia Schultz

### *Dedicated in Honor of Jeffery Brightwell*

*As I retire from 34 years of teaching, I find myself in a world that seems to be growing increasingly small. Where technology makes it possible to communicate with others around the world in an instant and modern transportation closes the distance between us and our global neighbors. It would be easy to believe that there are no adventures left to be found or journeys to be taken. Nothing can be further from the truth. If you have taken the first step of picking up this book and looking inside, I hope that you enjoy what you find within and light a spark that grows into a burning passion to see the world when you leave Hortonville High School.*

*Seek out the natural wonders of the world and realize that despite all humankind has accomplished, we are still very small when placed against the backdrop of this planet's grand creation. Discover those who speak different languages, sing different songs, play different games, eat different foods and all other aspects of culture that at first may seem unfamiliar and eccentric; only to find with growing familiarity that we all share the same desires to love and be loved, to understand our place in this world, to dream, to create and to forge a world where ensuing generations can do the same. Explore the architectural monuments built throughout history and be inspired by the best of human efforts to achieve these goals or in some cases to learn from those sad chapters where we have failed and lost our way. Life is too short to wait, and these "One Thousand Places" are just a handful of so many more adventures that await if you just take the first step and GO!! Just maybe I'll see you along the way!*

*God Bless!*

*Jeff Brightwell - "Mr. B"*

*June 2025*

*Hortonville High School*

*Alternative Education*

*2001-2025*



## Once Upon a Forest

By:  
Pam Fong

### *Dedicated in Honor of Cari Eggen*

*It is an honor to have this book in the elementary school library in memory of my years of service with Hortonville Area School District. I was blessed to inspire and educate students and teachers in this district for 23 years and the last 6 years helping all the libraries expand our literature to have more "windows and mirrors" so our students can find representation of their own experiences and be exposed to many experiences of people unlike themselves. I chose this book because young people have such an amazing capacity to imagine, this book without words lays out a beautiful story with illustrations that allows our young readers to add their own interruption to what they see. Enjoy having this book come to life as you read about a little creature being a good caretaker of his environment and that the power of small actions can make a big difference.*

*Cari Eggen  
June 2025  
District Media Specialist  
2002-2025*





## Tales of Al, The Water Rescue Dog

By:  
Lynne Cox

### *Dedicated in Honor of Cari Eggen*

*It is an honor to have this book in the middle school library in memory of my years of service with Hortonville Area School District. I was blessed to inspire and educate students and teachers in this district for 23 years and the last 6 years helping all the libraries expand our literature to have more "windows and mirrors" so our students can find representation of their own experiences and be exposed to many experiences of people unlike themselves. I chose this book because so many people love stories because dogs, with their unwavering loyalty, unconditional love and simple joy, dog themed books offer relatable narratives portraying themes of companionship, family and resilience. Al is a Newfoundland dog that teaches dedication, hard work, perseverance and growth. So many of my favorite books are about dogs, so I hope you find this book as inspiring as I did.*

*Cari Eggen  
June 2025  
District Media Specialist  
2002-2025*





## *Designing your Life: How to Build a Well-Live, Joyful Life*

By:

*Bill Burnett and Dave Evans*

### *Dedicated in Honor of Cari Eggen*

*It is an honor to have this book in the high school library in memory of my years of service with Hortonville Area School District. I was blessed to inspire and educate students and teachers in this district for 23 years and the last 6 years helping all the libraries expand our literature to have more "windows and mirrors" so our students can find representation of their own experiences and be exposed to many experiences of people unlike themselves. I chose this book because I feel all of us could use practical skills for making life decisions. This book can help you navigate uncertainty with a mindset of curiosity, experimentation and adaptability as you have the thoughts and pressures of what life could look like after high school. I strive every day to have a well-lived and joyful life and hope you can as well.*

*Cari Eggen*

*June 2025*

*District Media Specialist*

*2002-2025*



## *The Essential Calvin and Hobbes*

*A Calvin and Hobbes Treasury*

By:

Bill Watterson

*Dedicated in Honor of  
Paul Frazier*

*Hello reader and person with good taste. I taught in this district for a number of years and learned many things, among them we must never lose our sense of humor and our creativity. Calvin and Hobbes are great examples of both. I love this book. My students loved it as well. Be the first to discover the greatness inside (you) and remember, never stop moving forward.*

*Paul Frazier*

*June 2025*

*Hortonville Middle School*

*5<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher*

*1995-2025*



## Out of My Mind

By:  
Sharon Draper

### *Dedicated in Honor of Sara Ratchman*

*Over my 36 years of working as a school Speech/Language Pathologist, (28 years in the Hortonville Area School District), I have been fortunate enough to help students in all grade levels with varying abilities become more effective communicators. This is the reason I chose the book Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper as the book I would like to donate to Greenville Middle School upon my retirement. This book follows Melody, an 11-year-old, non-verbal girl with cerebral palsy on her journey to "find her voice". I encourage all of you to find your voices and advocate for yourselves and others. Remember: Be Kind, Be Strong, Be Resilient, Make yourselves heard!*

*Sara Ratchman  
June 2025  
Greenville Middle School  
Speech/Language Pathologist  
1997-2025*



*A Drop of Water*  
*A Book of Science and Wonder*

By:  
Walter Wick

*Dedicated in Honor of*  
*Jill Scott Danke*

*Water is needed to stay alive - Friends are needed to be happy*  
*Water molecules stick together - We need to stick together*  
*Water cleans itself up as it progresses through the water cycle - We need to improve ourselves as we progress through life*

*You can do anything you choose, become the person you set out to be, choose wisely!*  
*I can't wait to see the wonderful people you choose to become, the wonderful friendships you choose to form and the exciting futures you choose for yourselves!*

*Jill Scott Danke*  
*June 2025*  
*Greenville Middle*  
*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher*  
*1995-2025*





## *I Love You the Purplest*

By:  
Barbara M. Joosse

### *Dedicated in Honor of Wendy Sontag*

*This beautiful story holds a special place in my heart because it celebrates the unconditional love and unique connections that exist between people, especially family. The book tells the story of two brothers, each of whom feels uniquely loved by their mother—one is loved “the bluest,” and the other “the reddest.” This message is one that resonates deeply with me, as teaching has always been about recognizing and appreciating the individuality of each student. Just like the brothers in the story, every student brings something special to the classroom, and it’s important to honor and celebrate those differences.*

*In many ways, the classroom has been my second family over the years, and I’ve had the privilege of nurturing, guiding, and loving each of my students in my own way. As I retire, I wanted to leave behind a piece of that love and appreciation for future generations of students, who will undoubtedly find comfort, encouragement, and inspiration in the story.*

*I hope that I Love You the Purplest will be a reminder to all who read it—whether students, teachers, or my coworkers—that love comes in many forms, and it’s the bonds we form, in all their beautiful diversity, that truly matter. I trust that this book will continue to inspire and provide comfort for years to come, just as teaching has done for me throughout my career.*

*Thank you for being part of my incredible journey. And my HES family- I love you the purplest!*

*Wendy Sontag  
June 2025  
Hortonville Elementary  
4<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher  
1994-2025*





## *F this Test – Even More of the Very Best Totally Wrong Test Answers*

By:  
Richard Benson

*Dedicated in Honor of  
Ann Sullivan*

*Teachers face incredibly difficult challenges daily. We face pressure from almost all realms in society, but nothing compares to the pressure we put on ourselves. We take ourselves and our craft way too seriously. Without being able to laugh or see the humor in situations, our days can become pure drudgery and too painful to bear. There is no other profession that can fill your heart completely one moment and break it the very next. Through my time here, I have become known for my creative use of certain language. Some people may find me irreverent, but I find a well-placed swear word is more efficient and concise. It cuts through red tape and tends to make my point more quickly, especially if I am feeling over emotional about a situation. I chose this book to remind us to find humor in our lives. Yes, it's frustrating if our students fail to learn what we intended, but come on, look at the beauty and creativity that our students present us with! We all need to remember that it is ok to laugh, or even swear if you need to. I mean, WTF!*

*Ann Sullivan  
June 2025  
Hortonville High  
Special Education  
1997-2025*



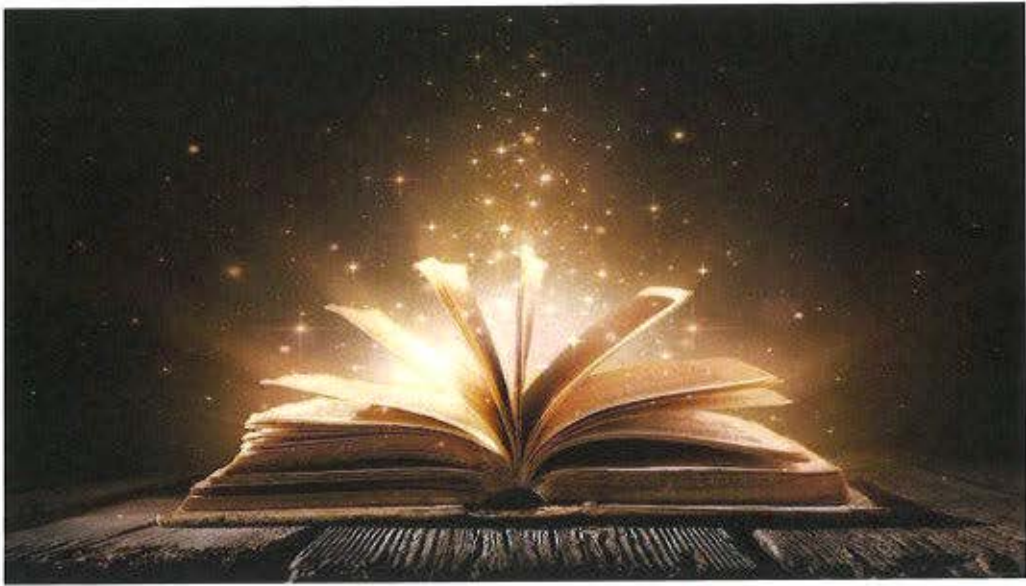
## *The Four Agreements*

By:  
Don Miguel Ruiz

*Dedicated in Honor of  
Kristen Zullner*

*It's been an honor and privilege to serve students and families of HHS for 25 years. Please enjoy this book that is based on Toltec wisdom. It offers four simple guidelines that can powerfully transform and enrich your life. Happy Reading!*

*Kristen Zullner  
June 2025  
Hortonville High School  
Teacher - ELL  
2000-2025*



# *Messages to our Retirees:*



## *In Honor of Lisa Ales*

*Now your adventure with Dolphins and Manatees begins! Your gentle passion and unwavering infectious spirit for students was very evident in your career. Enjoy the next journey...*

*Thomas Kraus*

*District Reading Specialist/Intermediate Literacy Coach, HES*

*Thank you for your dedication to your students at HES. Your patience & dedication over the past 34 years is an inspiration to all of us. Thank you for your leadership to our HES staff. We will miss you! Enjoy your retirement! You deserve it!*

*Sincerely,*

*HES 2nd Grade Team*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Gracee Minlschmidt, & Sheila Powers*

*Thank you for your 34 years of commitment to Hortonville Elementary School! At a rough estimate of 20 students per year, you have had at least 680 students. Truly, it is hard to comprehend the impact and service. Your advocacy and desire to continuously grow in the area of instructional technology for yourself and our students will be a mark that is left and certainly carried on for many years to come. I will miss the random notes of appreciation, the 14" TV/built in DVD player slideshow that rolls during conferences, and everything that you do for our school! I hope that retirement is filled with travel, family, and a pet turtle that does not get renamed every year. It was a pleasure getting to know and work with you for even a fraction of your time at HES. Best wishes!*

*Jared Deli*

*Principal, HES*

*Ms. Lisa Ales was a first-year teacher when I was in elementary! She was (and still is) so beautiful! All of the girls wanted her as a teacher; she was ALWAYS smiling! I love that she has been dedicated to our school district for her entire career! My family was fortunate that our son had her as a teacher. He loved her, and still talks about her classroom turtle (whose name was "Julio" for that school year!). What a fun tradition to take care of a classroom pet with so many children. Lisa, enjoy retirement. You absolutely deserve it!*

*Pamela Yeager*

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS*



*You warned us that you were retiring but we didn't want to believe it. You have been the heart and soul of the HES Third Grade team for 30+ years. Thank you for all the guidance, compassion and laughs (even those that were at your expense). We will miss having you as our sounding board, our friend and our technology guru. You give your whole heart to everyone who you encounter and HES is a better place because of you. Your genuine care for each of your students has made a big impact on their lives, as evidenced by the number of former students that have come back to see you (and even requested their children to have you!) Enjoy a retirement full of travel, fun and rocking babies. We are not saying goodbye because we feel you won't be able to keep yourself away from us for too long. With Love,*

*Missy Kohl, Sarah Gilbert, Serena Baehman and Chris Kellett  
Teachers, HES/HMS*

*You have been so committed to teaching the students of HES over the years. Your focus on using technology in the classroom is an asset to all of your students and their lives. You have also taught your students a love of animals that they will always remember. You will be missed, but we are excited for you to have many adventures. Travel, drink wine, hang in the hot tub, and think of us!*

*Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, Wendy Sontag, and Chris Hanna  
HES Fourth Grade Team*

*Will HES be able to survive without this pillar on their staff???*

*What a career you have had. I enjoyed being on committees, teaching summer school, taking classes from and with you, and seeing you out and about in the community. Best Wishes to you!! COME BACK AND SUB!!!! Hugs~*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES*





## **In Honor of Laurie Behnke**

*Thank you for all your years of service in supporting our GES students in the library, from helping them find books they love to read to finding new books that they get so excited about. Thank you for being available for our teachers, helping them with books for their units, ordering books to complement their curriculum and being flexible with teacher requests. Finally, I want to say thank you for everything you did to support me and the entire LMC team, we went through a lot of changes over the last 6 plus years, all for the improvement of our Library Media Centers and you jumped right in, supporting those improvements. I hope your retirement is going great and you are enjoying some well-deserved "me" time. Take care my friend.*

*Cari Eggen*

*HASD Library Media Specialist/Digital Learning Coach*

*Our library misses your quiet, sweet smile! Enjoy your retirement!*

*Lori Yonts*

*1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, GES*

*Laurie, It has been such a joy to work with you over the last 6 years. You are so kind, soft-spoken, and I love listening to your stories. I know you're already in the midst of it, but I wish you the best during your retirement.*

*Michelle Driessen*

*Library Aide, HES*

*Laurie always showed up early and stayed late! Her dedication to the Greenville Elementary School library will show inside this school for many years to come. Laurie did such a great job with helping transform our library into the space that it is today, and this has benefitted students over time. Laurie (and her husband) made many items that will be used here at school... particularly the "Little Free Library" and many shelves that are used in the library. Laurie, you will be greatly missed and please know that you have set us up for success! Good luck to you in your retirement!*

*David Harris*

*Principal, GES*



## ***In Honor of Lisa Borowski***

*Lisa, congratulations on your amazing educational career and retirement! So well deserved and grateful to have spent some of it with you. Thank you for all you did for so many students, including my own. Everyone who has crossed paths with you was fortunate to learn alongside you. Lastly, thank you for rocking the loop as car general with us for many years at NGES. All the best in retirement!*

*Daniel Milliren  
Activities Director, HHS*

*Lisa, or Mama B, has made an everlasting impact here at NGES. Her dedication as a math coach/interventionist is unmatched. Lisa makes sure no time is wasted in her schedule and that any open moment is dedicated to working with students on mastering their math skills. Her ability to push teachers out of their comfort zones and try new things for the sake of doing what is best for kids is evident when she is in classrooms or facilitating grade level PLTs. This is only my first year working with Lisa in this capacity, but I have learned so much from her in this short time we have been colleagues. Lisa, enjoy your much deserved retirement. You deserve it!!*

*Brittany Schmidt  
Principal, NGES*

*Lisa has been a true bright spot in the HASD, bringing her energy, expertise, and heart to everything she does. As an elementary math coach, she not only shared her deep knowledge of math but also went above and beyond to support our students and staff. Whether it was helping kids with fact fluency on the floor in the hallway, keeping an eye on student locker organization, or maintaining her post in the snowbank for loop duty, she did it all with a smile and a positive attitude. Her dedication to making sure every student learned and succeeded, backed by her careful attention to data, has made a huge difference in the lives of so many. She has truly been the heart and soul of our school community. Thank you, Lisa, for everything you've done - you've made a difference that won't be forgotten!*

*Janna Cochran  
Director of Learning*

*During the craziness of Covid, teachers at North Greenville Elementary School would be outside at drop off and pick up, helping kids exit their vehicles and finding their vehicles at day's end. Parents put signage in their vehicle window to alert teachers of the students' names and grades. Well, Mrs. Borowski was one of the 'lucky' ones assigned an outside duty, which was the perfect place for her. Every morning and afternoon, she was seen welcoming students with a huge smile, silly dance or*



friendly wave. She dressed up for special days, helped get backpacks on sleepy children getting out of their car, consoled the criers, and directed the traffic with ease. She helped make necessary changes fun and relaxed, yet safe and efficient. She was a bright light at the beginning and end of the school day.



Mrs. Borowski's authentic love for students and pure joy working in a school setting was always evident to parents and students alike. Having served on the PTO multiple years and being in the building frequently, Mrs. B. always seemed to be that utility player. She was someone staff could call on to jump in and help at any time, again always doing it with her big and loving smile. Her calm and soothing presence contributed to the building's amazing atmosphere. Mrs. B- Thank you for all your years of dedication to MY kids and ALL the children of Hortonville Area School District.

Jessica Hartjes  
District Parent and HASD Board Member

You have made such a big impact on students throughout your career. Your dedication to the highest expectations upon your students has not gone unnoticed. Enjoy the outdoors, a cup of coffee in the morning, and the next steps life will bring you with family and friends!

Tom Kraus  
District Reading specialist/Intermediate Literacy Coach, HES

Lisa, I am so glad you joined the staff at HASD all those years ago. You were such a great addition to the Gifted & Talented program and, of course, you brought those awesome children of yours! Both Ian and Trey were an absolute pleasure to work with and Trey was also a fabulous friend to my freshman son. May retirement afford you the opportunity to see more of both of them. Congratulations on a great career,

Janet Rowe  
Spanish Translation & Interpretation

Best wishes on your retirement. Your students and staff adore you and your positivity is contagious. Thank you for always being so friendly.

Katie Bushmaker  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS

Congratulations on your retirement! I've always admired your leadership and tenacity for student learning. You consistently did what was best for kids, and even in your final days here, you continue to work tirelessly to improve our schools, staff, and community. Your impact is immeasurable, and you will be greatly missed!

Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director

*The commitment you have made to our students and staff is second to none. Every interaction I have had with you has been filled with joy, positivity, uplift and the belief in all. Your vulnerability in sharing personal pieces of you, shaped me further in my understanding of others. It is through your story and insight into the world that your "why" into being the courageous educator you are was seen with great vibrancy; it is why you see the world in so many beautiful shades of color. Undoubtedly, you have made an impact on North Greenville Elementary, but I wanted you to know you have had a ripple effect far larger than that, as I have tried to carry a piece of your heroism and courage with me each day. Thank you for inspiring, thank you for making your mark on education here in HASD and thank you for pushing us to better versions of ourselves. What a legacy you leave behind. With Gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochon  
Principal, HMS/FWA*

*Mama B, you will be missed! Your love for students, teachers, and HASD is always apparent in all that you do. Your enthusiasm and energy for being your best and bringing out the best in others are unmatched. I have loved being on this journey with you and am so grateful for having the opportunity to know you and learn from you. I wish you all the best that retirement has to offer! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Math Interventionist & Instructional Coach, GMS*

*We have had so many adventures together! From working together your first year here when I was a third-grade teacher (remember our learning contracts?), to heading to the PLC Summit in Arizona, to presenting together multiple times. Words cannot express how much I value you as a co-worker, but more so as a friend. To have so many similar experiences in our personal lives to process together, I cannot thank you enough. I know this is not goodbye! Love you, my friend!*

*Jennifer Smith  
Math Instructional Coach & Interventionist, GES*

*Lisa - where do I begin? First off, I want to say Thank You for everything you have brought to HASD and the many students who have walked in and out of the doors where you have set foot. You are an amazing person & teacher, and I am beyond grateful for all you have done for not only my own girls, but any students who have had the opportunity to be in your presence. You do so many amazing things to shape the lives of the students and make them be the best version of themselves. I wish you many blessings in retirement.*

*Michelle Driessen & family  
Library Aide, HES*

*Lisa Borowski is Mama B to just about everyone she meets because she is a true Mama Bear. Lisa is fiercely passionate about learning (math learning especially), but she is also fiercely passionate about supporting the whole child, the whole teacher, and the whole school. Lisa is the first one out in the drop-off line in the morning, welcoming students with hugs and encouraging words. She is the last one in the pick-up line at dismissal, smiling, waving goodbye, and shouting to parents in cars to share something amazing a child did during the day.*



*Lisa's success as a math coach is evidenced by the incredible math data. Students are thriving because Lisa coaches in every classroom, knows which students are not meeting standards, and helps develop plans to make certain every student meets the math standards by the end of the year.*

*In addition, Lisa helps kids keep desks and lockers clean, checks in with students before the day starts, and ensures teachers have just what they need to be successful. None of these things are in Lisa's job description, but she makes time in her day to support everyone at NGES.*

*So, we at North Greenville have our work cut out for us. We can never replace Mama B, but we do need to find people to take her daily duties, check kids' lockers and desks, and we all aspire to make sure students have what they need to be successful learners in every way.*

*Lisa, we miss you already! Your shoes absolutely cannot be filled, but we will do our very best to be Mama B in our own way.*

*Michelle Bartelt  
Instructional Coach, NGES/GMS  
Jennifer Cook  
Instructional Coach, NGES*

*I've had the pleasure of working with Lisa for over 10 years. First at GES, then at NGES. Everyone needs a Lisa in their life; at home and at work!!! She gets things done, takes charge, checks in, and does it all with a smile.*

*She will lead you in prayer, share a laugh, watch over your class, fill in on bus duty, join in on the staff dance or video, you name it.*

*On top of being an amazing educator, she is an incredible Mom, Wife, and Christian. Thank you, Lisa, for being everyone's Mama B!*

*I am so excited for you to do what you enjoy and to do it whenever you want in this next, exciting chapter! Thank you so much for taking such good care of the students, staff, and families of North Greenville Elementary and many other HASD students. You will be missed!!!!!! Hope to see you around Greenville. Hugs~*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES*





## ***In Honor of Jeffrey Brightwell***

*During my time at the high school, I appreciated Jeff's ability to connect with kids based on their interests and their very specific needs. He worked hard to find new strategies to reach kids to help them meet their academic goals toward graduation. He was persistent with kids and helped them to believe in their own abilities. Thanks for all you have done for our students over the years.*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*I want to thank Mr. Brightwell for all the time and energy he put into working with all the learners at HHS. His unique ability to connect and build relationships with many students led many to obtain their high school diplomas. His impact and presence within our building will be greatly missed; I wish you the best in your well-deserved retirement.*

*Tim Rietveld  
Principal, HHS*

*Congratulations on your retirement, Jeff and thank you for your many years working with students who really benefited from your support. I am glad you were assigned a room in the "world language hallway" as I really enjoyed our conversations over the years. Best wishes to you,*

*Janet Rowe  
Spanish Translation & Interpretation*

*Thank you for your many years of dedicated service to the Hortonville School District. Your patience and ability to positively impact students, needing the most guidance have been truly remarkable. Your commitment has made a lasting difference, and your contributions will be fondly remembered. Best wishes in your retirement!*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Thank you, Jeff, for your years of dedication to the HHS students, staff, and families. Wishing you all the best in your retirement!*

*Anna Cihlar  
Associate Principal, HHS*

*Jeff, as you retire, we can't help but reflect on the impact you've had. Your ability to connect with some of our more challenging students has been incredible, and your coaching background helped you mentor and guide them in ways that went beyond academics. Even in your final year, when most would step back, you jumped in to work with freshmen, showing your flexibility and dedication. Your presence at HHS will be missed.*

*Dallas Herbst  
Associate Principal, HHS*



## ***In Honor of Craig Dreier***

*Craig, thank you for all your support to the Hortonville Area School District. It has been an honor and a privilege to work with you as a Board member for the last fifteen (15) years. Enjoy spending time now with your family, friends, traveling, golfing and keeping up with your grandchildren. Stop by now and then to show us pictures of your grandchildren and all your adventures. Take care,*

*Tamie Neilson  
District Administrative Assistant*

*Craig's time on our school board certainly helped our school district to continue to grow and achieve at high levels. He asked really great questions and advocated for students who may have lacked their own advocates. He truly cares about the success of all kids and helped us bring many great opportunities to light for our kids!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*Craig has been a true champion for our students, staff, and the incredible work happening in HASD. His strong commitment to education was clear in every meeting, always asking the right questions to push us to be better. Craig dedicated his time generously over the years, always keeping the mission of ensuring EVERY student learns at the core of his support. His dedication and leadership have left a lasting impact. Thank you, Craig, for all you have done for our schools and community.*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning*

*Thank you, Craig, for always making decisions based on what is best for the 4,000-plus students in the Hortonville Area School District. I always appreciated your willingness to ask and advocate what we need to help students be more successful across all grade levels. You are a true champion for our students. Thank you for your years of service on the board, and I wish you the best in the future.*

*Timothy Rietveld  
Principal, HHS*

*While I have only been here a fraction of the time that you have served on our school board, I want to thank you for all of the work. It has been a pleasure attending board meetings, specifically watching your advocacy for the whole child. Often these are the children that may not get the voice. Mental health and the necessary pupil services resources are essential and help support our mission of all kids learning at high levels, a statement that you have modeled with your presence. Thanks again and best wishes on your future endeavors.*

*Jared Deli  
Principal, HES*



*Craig was a data minded school board member. He saw multiple referendum projects and supported fiscal responsibility which has aided the district to limit short term borrowing. More than that, he was most concerned about students who needed additional support. He wanted to understand Response to Intervention and what the organization was doing to help students in the most need. He attended a PLC Summit with a team of HASD educators. We thank Mr. Dreier for his time on the Board of Education at the Hortonville Area School District.*

*Todd Timm  
District Administrator*

*Thank you for being a voice to those who need it. Thank you for being an advocate for those who are voiceless or for those who need more. Your heart was always present, and you always led with curiosity, dug in deeper, and made HASD better. Thank you for giving the very best of yourself and ensuring we are doing right by kids, by teachers, and by our community. Thank you for inspiring me consistently, for feeling blessed to learn and grow from you, and for feeling very, very grateful that you served our community by being on the school board. I am grateful for your service, for your wisdom, and for using your voice. We are BETTER because of YOU! With Gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochan  
Principal, HMS/FWA*

*Congratulations on your resignation and wish you the very best in your well-earned retirement. Your unwavering commitment to always doing what is right for kids and your dedication to the Hortonville community have left an indelible mark. You will be deeply missed, but your leadership and service over the past several years have made our district a stronger, better place. Thank you for everything you've done—you've truly made a difference.*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*I want to especially thank Mr. Craig Dreier, not just for his years of service on the school board, but for the heart he brought to the role. In full transparency, I was sometimes shaking in my boots when I gave a presentation, because I never knew what Craig would ask. However, I did know that it was always going to be about what was best for kids. Craig has been a relentless advocate for our underserved students, ensuring that every child, regardless of background, has a voice and a chance. His work will leave a lasting impact on our schools and community for generations.*

*Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services*

*Thank you for your leadership and years of service to the HASD. We are so grateful to you!*

*Anna Cihlar  
Associate Principal, HHS*

*Craig, Thank you for your many years of leadership on the Hortonville Area School District school board. Your unwavering support for administration staff and students was evident in all of your decisions, all of your questions, and all of your conversations over the years. I really admired the tough*



questions that you asked. They always came from a place of care, fiscal responsibility, and a clear vision to move our district into the future. You definitely leave some big shoes to fill, and I wish you well in the years to come!

David Harris  
Principal, GES

I want to extend my gratitude and heartfelt congratulations to you on your retirement. Your unwavering drive for results, paired with your genuine commitment to excellence in education, has made a lasting impact on our district. You have been a strong supporter of administrators, always encouraging us to lead with purpose and prioritize what truly matters - our students. Your passion for ensuring every child receives the very best education possible is admirable and is what moves us forward. As you move into this next chapter, know that your work will continue to shape the lives of countless students and educators for years to come. Congratulations and best wishes!

Katie Proietti  
Associate Principal, HMS/FWA

Your retirement is the end of a chapter defined by thoughtfulness, courage, and genuine care for our district. You've never shied away from asking the tough questions, even ones that pushed us to think deeper, prepare better, and grow stronger. But just as importantly, you've consistently shown unwavering support for the work we do, trusting that when something came before the Board of Education, it was the result of careful planning and a deep commitment to our students and community. Your balance of curiosity and confidence in the schools has left a lasting mark, and we're incredibly grateful for the perspective and partnership you've brought over the years.

Dallas Herbst  
Associate Principal, HHS

Craig, thank you for dedicated support to HASD and the encouragement you've shared with me the last few years; it means a lot. I've especially appreciated how you asked thoughtful questions about information being presented. You'll definitely be missed, enjoy having your Monday nights back.

Christina Peterson  
Director of Business Services



## *In Honor of Cari Eggen*

*Cari has been the heart and soul of our district's library media program, bringing unmatched organization and a sharp eye for detail. Known as the queen of spreadsheets, she's been the go-to for making sure everything runs smoothly, while always keeping students at the center of her work. She came in and built a districtwide library media program with a clear vision, enriching the learning experiences of both students and teachers. Thank you, Cari, for everything you've done!*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning*

*Cari Eggen has been a rockstar in the Hortonville Area School District for many years. Serving as a digital literacy teacher and most recently serving as our library media specialist, Cari has spent her career helping students navigate both the world of technology and the magic of books.*

*From teaching students how to code (without turning their brains into digital mush) to finding the perfect book for every reader (even the ones who swear they "don't like reading"), Cari's impact has been immeasurable. She's been a champion for both the digital world and the printed page, proving that you can be both tech-savvy and bookworm-approved.*

*I have had the pleasure of working with Cari for several years, and am grateful for her tech tips, her quick wit, and her unwavering ability to keep the library both a haven for students and a hub of creativity.*

*Thank you for everything, Cari, and we wish you all the best as you turn the page to this next chapter in your life!*

*Travis Lawrence  
Principal, GMS*

*I'm a relatively new teacher, and Cari has always been understanding and helpful every time I see her. She has great energy and genuinely wants everyone to do well. Cari's definitely someone I'm lucky to have met. Thanks!*

*Lena Parry-Cook  
Digital Literacy, GMS*



*You have been such a professional for as long as I've known you. Your tenacity at attacking problems with an open mind is so evident throughout your career. Enjoy your new camper, grandkids, and the next adventures you will encounter!*

*Thomas Kraus  
District Reading Specialist/Intermediate Literacy Coach, HES*

*Happy retirement, Cari! Thank you for your years of teaching middle school students how to use technology as well as your time as library resource manager. I really appreciated your support when I expressed interest in Breakout boxes. I also very much enjoyed having your children as my students, oh so long ago! Enjoy your retirement,*

*Janet Rowe  
Spanish Translation & Interpretation*

*Thank you for your patience, support & knowledge with our Library Media questions. You have inspired many students & staff as a Teacher & Library Media Specialist in our district. You will be missed! Enjoy your retirement!*

*Sincerely,  
HES 2nd Grade Team  
Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Gracee Minlschmidt, & Sheila Powers*

*Thank you for always being so kind, quick, and willing to help when we asked for apps or updates. You will be missed! Enjoy your retirement.*

*Lori Yonts  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, GES*

*Thank you for your tenacity in ensuring all kids are seen, heard and represented in our HASD system. Thank you for your leadership in an evolving world and staying current, being respectful to all, but staying true to your inner compass. It takes courage to be a voice for all, even those that sometimes don't use their voice. I appreciate all the communication and constant work in ensuring our students have the technology and tools they need to be successful. You always advocated on behalf of others and shared your thoughts honestly and openly. I wish you well on your next endeavor. Enjoy retirement, you have earned its reward and I know you will love what you do! With Gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochan  
Principal, HMS/FWA*

*Thank you for the vision, passion, and work that you brought to our libraries over the past 6 years in your role as Library & Media Specialist, a position that you made your own, if I am not mistaken. I appreciated your desire to meet with myself and Michele to update us both on what is to come, the work that it would entail, and what our needs were to best serve kids. Congratulations and well wishes in your next chapter!*

*Jared Deli  
Principal, HES*

*Congratulations on your retirement! I truly appreciate all the opportunities we had to work together and improve library services across the district. Your willingness to take on a challenging role years ago and your tireless effort in meeting the needs of our students and community have made a lasting impact. Thank you!*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Your knowledge, organizational skills, and Cari, your reflective insight, problem-solving focus, and warm and positive nature will be greatly missed. Even when things got a little crazy or stressful, you remained calm as you approached the challenge. I have always looked up to you for your graceful presence and dedication to success for yourself and those around you. Thank you for sharing your huge heart with HASD. You will be missed! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Math Interventionist & Instructional Coach, GMS*

*Cari, it has been a pleasure getting to know you over the last 10 years. What started out as a parent/teacher interaction when you were the Dig Lit teacher at GMS, transitioned to co-workers as you moved into the Library Media Assistant role and then evolved into a friendship that I cherish inside and outside the workplace. I am so grateful for you, your drive and your passion for whatever you set your mind to. I wish you and Pete the absolute best of times as you hit the ground running in retirement. I look forward to connecting to hear all your amazing stories.*



*Michelle Driessen  
Library Aide, HES*

*Wow, I've known Cari for at least 20 years! I had the pleasure of teaching all 3 of her wonderful children, then working with her at GMS.*

*It's been fun to see her as a parent, then a GMS teacher, & then our HASD Media Specialist (oh yeah, add in basketball and track coach too)!*

*Thank you for all of your time and effort with our staff and students, Cari! I admire you in all aspects of your life (educator, leader, Mother, Wife, Friend, etc.).*

*You definitely are a mentor to me, whether you knew it or not! How could I not admire another awesome person from the great state of IOWA??! We cool people stick together.*

*I cannot wait to see the adventures retirement takes you & Pete! Camping, biking, hiking, motorcycles, grandparenting, ALL OF IT!*

*Best Wishes!!! Will miss seeing you around HASD. Hugs~*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES*



*Cari, thank you for all the time and effort and dedication you have provided to HASD. Your work in developing a process to allocate CSF equitably to our buildings and the support you have provided with the 1:1 initiative will have a lasting impact. Congratulations on your retirement - I wish you all the best in this next chapter.*

*Christina Peterson  
Director of Business Services*



## **In Honor of Paul Frazier**

*Wishing you all the best! I've always appreciated your openness to learning and growth mindset for as long as I've worked with you. Enjoy your travels which I'm sure will be many. Hope to catch up with you on the other side of retirement! You make teaching what it is...*

*Thomas Kraus*

*District Reading Specialist/Intermediate Literacy Coach, HES*

*I can't even imagine 5th grade without you. You have been such an instrumental part of the team for so many years. I remember when I started in the district, you were so kind to me and helped me settle in. You were always the levelheaded, settling everyone down. Your students adored you and your room was always requested by parents. You will be so missed. I wish you well and hope to see you around.*

*Katie Bushmaker*

*6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS*

*You are a pillar within our school. You exude wisdom, honesty, compassion, thoughtfulness, genuineness, fairness and great heart always. Without a doubt, you are a tremendous educator, someone that has shaped the lives of over a thousand students and made them feel valued, seen, cared for and respected. You engaged them with wonder, curiosity, gentleness, and excitement, as you made the chemistry experiment ignite. You have instilled a love of learning in your students and helped them to flourish in your classroom. Most importantly, you saw each and every student and what they needed, and you gave it to them. You believed in every child and through your belief in them, they started to see themselves in a different light. Year after year, I saw students blossom and flourish in your care. There is no doubt, you are a kid-whisperer. You are a beloved educator and there are a thousand reasons why you are.*

*Paul, you are also a servant leader. You walk the walk and lead by example. The needs of our school, your team and your kids are always at the forefront of your thinking. You advocate for others and are selfless in your actions. Your honesty and candor have been a true gift and I thank you for shaping me as a leader and helping me to see things in a different way. I will miss your perspective and your opinion; however, I am forever grateful for the learning bestowed upon me~ thank you, Paul.*

*May the next part of your journey be a beautiful one filled with impact and one that keeps your soul on fire with drive and purpose~ it is quite simply who you are. Wishing you well on your journey! With Gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochan  
Principal, HMS/FWA*

*Congratulations on your retirement! While our time was short, I enjoyed watching you build wonder in the eyes of our students. Your genuine interest in learning and making kids wonder was something I picked up on early and admire. I wish you the very best in your next chapter!*

*Jared Deli  
Principal, HES*

*As you embark on this exciting new chapter of your life, we want to take a moment to express our deepest gratitude for all the incredible years you've dedicated to our school community. Your unwavering support, kindness, and dedication have made a lasting impact on all of us, especially the 5th grade team.*

*You've been more than just a "school dad" — you've been a true mentor, role model, and a constant source of encouragement. Whether it was offering a helping hand with anything, sharing your wisdom with our students, or simply being there with a smile, your presence has brightened our school in ways words can't fully capture.*

*While we will miss you dearly, we know that your legacy will live on in the countless lives you've touched. We wish you all the best in this well-deserved retirement. May it be filled with joy, relaxation, and plenty of time to enjoy the things that make you happiest. Thank you for everything. You will always have a special place in our hearts. With gratitude and warm wishes,*

*The 5th Grade Team  
2024-2025*

*Paul, it has been such a pleasure to work with you and learn from you. Your positive, friendly, and calm demeanor was such an asset to students and teachers. Thank you for your dedication to HASD. Enjoy retirement! You will be missed! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Math Interventionist & Instructional Coach, GMS*

*Your years in 5th grade have been so important to students in HASD. Your passion for learning and rapport with students leaves a lasting impression. Our 4th grade students got to have you guide them in their transition to the middle school. Who will we get to teach the boys about puberty??? We will miss you, but we know that you will enjoy traveling and watching the Denver Broncos.*

*Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, Wendy Sontag, and Chris Hanna  
HES Fourth Grade Team*



*Congratulations on your retirement, Paul! It has been an absolute joy working alongside you and watching the impact you have on staff and students alike. Your leadership in and out of the classroom, your quick wit, and the way you bring humor into each day have made our school a better place. What stands out most, though, is your deep love for kids - especially for those who need it most. You have a special way of connecting with students who others might struggle to reach, and your ability to make them feel seen, valued, and capable is something truly special. One of my favorite moments that shows this was when a student shared a very specific reason for needing to go to the nurse. Later, when I followed up with her, she simply said, "Oh, I trust him. He's a girl dad - he gets it." That level of trust says everything. Students feel safe opening up to you in their most vulnerable moments, and that kind of connection is rare. It's just one of many reasons why you will be missed by all at HMS. Enjoy every moment of what comes next. You have earned it!*

*Katie Proietti  
Associate Principal, HMS/FWA*





## ***In Honor of Sara Ratchman***

*Sara has helped so many students achieve their goals in and out of the speech context. She holds students to high expectations, believes in them, and finds creative ways to service students to maximize their learning across the school day. She always had a pleasant greeting to start my day and her sense of humor made tough situations lighter. She is a great teammate and her work here at GMS will be missed.*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*Sarah's expertise and unwavering commitment to helping students find their voices—both literally and figuratively—has made a lasting impact on our school community.*

*Her kindness, patience, and dedication have helped countless students overcome communication challenges, empowering them to succeed in and out of the classroom. Sarah's influence has been felt not only by the students she worked with directly but also by colleagues and families alike.*

*I am especially thankful for the opportunity to have worked alongside Sarah, recognizing the tremendous difference she has made in the lives of so many. As she steps into retirement, I wish Sarah all the best and hope she enjoys this new chapter of her life. Her contributions to our district will always be remembered with gratitude and admiration. Thank you, Sarah, for everything you've done!*

*Travis Lawrence  
Principal, GMS*

*Sara was my mentor 8 years ago when I started at HASD. She helped me learn the ins and outs of the district. I still appreciate all she did for me and all the time she took to be sure I was okay. One of the things she told me was to, "keep a good thought" when things got stressful or when I was unsure of myself. I hadn't heard that advice before and it has stuck with me over the years. I will always think of her when I say it to myself or when I share it with others who are struggling.*

*Outside of being my colleague, I will forever be grateful for how she loved my boys, especially my Sal when he had a hard day. One of his first days at GMS, Sal was crying because he was no longer in the same building as me. Sara called me and asked me to go out on the playground and look up at the staircase window. There she was with Sal, with her arm around him. We waved to each other, and he*

*smiled. The rest of his day was great, and he knew he could go to her if he needed a wave or a hug. I don't think Sara realizes how much that meant to me and how much I appreciated her for that.*

*Thank you, Sara, for all you did for me and for my boys, for all the laughs we shared and all the days I leaned on you. I have many fond memories of our time together and I will miss you at work.*  
Love, Harmony

Harmony Ebbesen  
Speech Language Pathologist, GES

*When we started doing breakfast here at GES, Sara would gather the kindergarten breakfast students, bring them down to the cafeteria, help them enter their numbers and give reminders to students. She really helped at the beginning of the year for several years doing this service. I believe her efforts reduced the stress and anxiety for our newest students. I really miss having her do this service. Thank you,*

Sandy Renner  
Food Service Staff Member, GES

*I still miss having you across the hall from me, and now you're retiring! Enjoy this new time of life!*

Lori Yonts  
1<sup>st</sup> Grade Teacher, GES

*I am grateful we've had the opportunity to work together the past few years. I appreciate your honesty and openness when working with shared students. You always make me smile and are so inviting and easy to talk to. I wish you well on this next chapter. I will miss you at GMS.*

Katie Bushmaker  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS

*Congratulations on your retirement! You've earned it, and I'm so happy for you as you embark on this next phase of life. I'm grateful I got to work with you these past 6 years and I thank you for the advice, experiences and laughs you so generously shared with me. You will be missed here at HASD, as you have made such a positive impact on so many staff members, students and their families. Thank you!*

Courtney Wallace  
Speech-Language Pathologist, NGES

*Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement! Your dedication as an SLP over the years has made an incredible impact on the lives of so many children and families. You've had the opportunity to work with kids at all age levels in almost every building in our district. Our team will miss your quick wit and willingness to be helpful. I hope your retirement is filled with happiness and lots of time to do what you want to do!*

Jessica Timm  
Speech-Language Pathologist, HES



*Retiring you are. Miss you I will. Yoda best! Good Luck!*

*Deborah Lohr  
Special Ed Program Support/Leadership  
EC: Special Ed Coordinator/4K Coordinator*



*Sara Ratchman's retirement is leaving a tremendous hole on the speech, special education, and HASD team. I want to thank her for the incredible impact she's had on so many students' lives. She has built strong, lasting connections with both students and families, always serving them with empathy and care. Personally, I've always appreciated how available and supportive she's been. She is always there to answer a question or offer her insight. Her dedication, kindness and expertise will be truly missed.*

*Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services*

*I had a lot of fun working with you at GES, Sara!  
Thank you for the love and care you gave our HASD Speech and Language students. I enjoyed teaching your children too and will always remember your dry, sarcastic humor.  
Best Wishes on your retirement! Hugs-*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES*

*I will miss you on our Speech & Language team! I enjoyed working with you and chatting with you for the last 15 years! We must keep in touch!*

*Erika Gergits  
Speech-Language Pathologist. HHS & HMS*





## *In Honor of Jill Scott Danke*

*Jill's love for science was evident in her classroom and in her life. Thank you to Jill for being a leader in the adoption of a new science resource and for finding ways to support student growth in science and beyond. Your calm, caring, and kind approach will be missed in our building. We appreciate all of your work over the years!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*Jill has dedicated decades of her life to the education and well-being of our students, leaving an enduring impact on both the school community and the countless individuals whose lives she has touched.*

*Her unwavering commitment to fostering a positive learning environment and advocating for student success has been a cornerstone of her career, and we are deeply grateful for all she has done. I have had the privilege of working alongside Jill for the past 12 years, and I am especially thankful for her collaboration and the positive influence she has had on both students and staff.*

*I wish Jill the absolute best in her retirement and know that her legacy will continue to inspire future generations. Thank you, Jill, for everything you've given to our district — you will be greatly missed!*

*Travis Lawrence  
Principal, GMS*

*It is very rare that teachers stay dedicated to the field for as long as you have, so thank you. You have made a great impact on students throughout the years from special education to all grade levels and across multiple content areas. Additionally, you have made a positive impact on staff members for so many years. Your gentle soul and smile lights up a room. Your kind heart radiates through all you do. We are excited for these next steps on your journey. Enjoy the time with your family, faith and crafts. You will forever be a part of the HASD family. Best Wishes*

*Your 6th grade team  
Pam, Laura, Tim, Bailee, Shawna, Katie, Melissa*

*Jill, your curious, calm, and positive approach to teaching was so helpful in a middle school! You could smile and keep things in perspective to keep moving forward. Thank you for making the long drive to GMS each day; we were lucky to have you! You will be missed! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Math Interventionist & Instructional Coach, GMS*



## **In Honor of Wendy Sontag**

*I will long remember your infectious laugh moving forward. Enjoy the concerts (which I may see you at), the warm vacations, and the start of something new. In the infamous words of Dave Matthews: Take what you can from your dreams, make them as real as anything. ...*

*Thomas Kraus*

*District Reading Specialist/Intermediate Literacy Coach, HES*

*Thank you for making an impact on so many students at HES. You taught your students with patience, kindness, & compassion. We will miss your smile & friendship. Enjoy your next journey! Happy Retirement!*

*Sincerely,*

*HES 2nd Grade Team*

*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Gracee Minlschmidt, & Sheila Powers*

*Thank you for your 31 years of commitment to Hortonville Elementary School. I think these are alphabetical so I am sure you already read Wendy.. I mean Lisa's 680 student stat line! Less 60 and it leaves you with a staggering 620 students! No wonder I get the two of your names mixed up all the time! Your easy going and "warm demand" approach created a learning environment that made kids feel seen, safe, and excited to come to school each day. When the 3rd grade team was presented with a volunteer opportunity to switch grade levels last year, I will be honest in saying I didn't expect it to be you. It was pretty well known that the 24-25 school year would be your last and the anticipation of the new literacy curriculum seemed to be like a lot of change for everyone in general. While I knew you spent a majority of your career in 4th grade, it was still a really big decision. In what I have found to be typical Wendy fashion, you very calmly approached me and offered to do it with the condition of keeping your room. This interaction just spoke to your flexible demeanor that has played such a positive role on the students and staff at our school. Enjoy travel, concerts, and all of the social events that you enjoy with your husband and friends! Congrats on a well-deserved retirement.*

*Jared Deli*

*Principal, HES*

*It's hard to imagine the "Red Hallway" without your contagious laugh. You are such an amazing educator, teammate and friend. We have come to count on you in so many ways. You have often kept us organized and on track. You are unafraid to speak your mind for the benefit of those you care about (colleagues and students, alike). Thank you for being the person that lightens the mood and keeps us*



grounded. We can't wait to hear about all your amazing "adventures." Happy Retirement,  
Wendy! Love,

Missy Kohl, Lisa Ales, Sarah Gilbert, Serena Baehman, and Chris Kellett  
Teachers, HES/HMS

Congratulations on your well-deserved retirement! Your dedication, patience, and kindness have made a lasting impact on so many students over the years. As you close this chapter and begin the next, we hope your days are filled with exciting travels, meaningful moments with friends, and all the relaxation you truly deserve. You will be missed so much on our team. Thank you for everything you've given to your students, your school, and your community. Enjoy every minute—you've earned it!

Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, and Chris Hanna  
HES Fourth Grade Team

Will HES be able to survive without this pillar on their staff???

What a career you have had. I enjoyed being on committees, teaching summer school, taking classes from and with you, and seeing you out and about in the community. Best Wishes to you!! COME BACK AND SUB!!!! Hugs~

Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES



## *In Honor of Ann Sullivan*

*Ann Sullivan has been an important facet of our High School special education department for 28 years. She has witnessed many coming, going, and some coming back, but has remained a constant and dedicated employee of the Hortonville Area School District.*

*Ann brings light, laughter, and care to all those she knows. She is a fierce advocate for her students and a kind and compassionate colleague. Ann is always a strong voice of reason, but also an empathetic shoulder to cry on. She has this innate way of making people feel cared for, appreciated, and seen.*

*Ann has become an integral part of her students and colleagues' lives. She is not just a coworker; she is revered as family and someone who makes a difference.*

*Students and adults gravitate towards her because of her candor. Ann says what we are all thinking...but in a way that often creates lots of laughter and head nods in agreement. She can "get away with it" because of her strong rapport with others, teaching expertise, and mostly because we know it comes from a place of love, knowledge, and concern for others...ok sometimes she is feisty, but we love it!*

*Ann can always be counted on for comic relief, her thoughts on how to deal with a challenging student, parent, or situation, a food recommendation, or more importantly, her unwavering friendship and support.*

*Though we celebrate her today, it is also with sadness, because there is absolutely NO ONE quite like Ann.*

*Mrs. Sullivan was so very welcoming to me when I joined the team at HHS in the classroom and when I was the Dean of Students. Ann taught me so very much about trauma informed care and how to support students in behavioral crisis. To this day I use the strategies she taught me, and I know that I am better in my work because of my time with her! I wish you the best in your retirement!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*Thank you for being a positive role model for students and staff at the high school. The students you have supported and cared for through the years will always remember your kindness and concern for them. I bet if you saw one of your prior students that they would be able to tell you many ways you helped them while they were here at school.*

*In our time together over the past ten years, you have always been supportive and caring and I appreciate you! Best wishes in your retirement and I hope to see you out on the lake someday.*

*Andrea Farrell  
Special Education Paraprofessional, HHS*

*I will never forget the lessons and skills I learned from Ms. Sullivan while working together. Your straightforward, no-nonsense approach to working with students is exceptional. Thank you, Ann, for your work and dedication to helping countless students be successful in life. I will never forget the time we spent together problem-solving to meet the needs of kids. I hope we will still receive treats before the holidays. Enjoy your well-deserved retirement.*

*Tim Rietveld  
Principal, HHS*

*Congratulations, Ann! I have such admiration for the work you do with some of our most challenging students. Your advocacy on their behalf has made a difference in the lives of many. Thank you, too, for sharing your lovely daughter with me. She was such a pleasure to have as a student. Enjoy your retirement,*

*Janet Rowe  
Spanish Translation & Interpretation*

*Congratulations on your retirement! No one has advocated more passionately for students or prepared them with life-changing opportunities after high school. Your sense of humor and unwavering willingness to do whatever was needed will be truly missed. Personally, I'll also miss the jam and chocolates you brought each Christmas. They were amazing. Thank you for everything!*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*I'll never forget the first time I "met" Ann. I immediately knew she was spirited and a fierce advocate for students. I think about the number of students and families she has served in this district, and the countless lives she has touched and I'm truly humbled. Ann taught me, and so many of us, the true power of community and importance of building strong, meaningful connections with students and families. Ann, thank you for the legacy you leave behind and the example you've set for all of us."*

*Lori Smits  
Director of Pupil Services*



Wow! Where have the last 26 years gone by?

As you head into retirement, I want to express my deepest gratitude for everything you've brought to Hortonville High School and our students.

Your commitment to students has always gone far beyond the curriculum. You've been a mentor, a cheerleader, a steady presence, and sometimes even a lifeline—guiding each student not just to learn, but to believe in themselves. You saw potential where others saw challenges. You connected with the quiet ones (and the loud ones), lifted up the dreamers, and inspired everyone in between.

You've never been one to follow the beaten path. Your creativity in the classroom—whether it was a lesson delivered through storytelling, an unexpected hands-on project, or a different way of looking at a problem—has left a lasting impression on all of us. You've reminded us that thinking outside the box isn't just a teaching style, it's a way of life.

Among our colleagues, you've been more than a co-worker—you've been a true friend and a source of strength. You've brought warmth and wisdom to every department meeting, compassion to every conversation, and a willingness to step in and help, no matter how full your plate already was. Your sense of humor is like a secret weapon—just when things start to feel overwhelming, you say something that cracks me up and suddenly everything feels lighter. It also made things more manageable, no matter how stressful it can get.

Your retirement marks the end of an era, but your positive influence will live on in the lives you've touched and the countless ways you've impacted students for the better.

Thank you, for being a positive role model, resource, and friend from the bottom of my heart. You've made a difference that can't be measured—and you will be deeply missed!

Now that the sincere stuff has been written...you are quitting on us and will be dead to us next school year! 🍷🍷🍷

In all seriousness, I wish you joy, relaxation, and plenty of new adventures in your next chapter in life.

Tom Riedasch  
Special Education Teacher, HHS

Thank you, Ann, for your leadership in the Special Education Department at HHS and the countless students and families you have served throughout the years. Wishing you all the best in your retirement!

Anna Cihlar  
Associate Principal, HHS

One of my favorite memes says, "A job will have you 21 years old with a 56 year old best friend..like dang, where Mr. Otis at today?" While we may not be exactly that far apart in age, Ann, you are my "Mr. Otis". Getting to start my career in education alongside you was one of the greatest gifts I could have been provided - not just because you are an incredible teacher, but because I gained a lifelong friend, work mom, and mentor I could go to for anything... and I mean anything. You have this one-of-a-kind ability to reach the kids who are struggling the most, the ones others might give up on. Somehow, you always find a way to connect with them, to see their hearts even when they are hurting. I will never forget the advice you gave me early on: "When kids are mad at you, it means they care." That may be the PG version of what you actually said, but it is a message that I have referred back to both as a teacher and as an administrator - especially on the really tough days. As you head into the world of retirement, I think it's only appropriate to write you a personalized IEP goal so you have some direction with the next year of life: Given an increase in free time and a decrease in work-related stress, Ann will independently engage in joyful, self-directed retirement activities (e.g., pontoon rides, traveling, binge-watching tv, dinner dates with friends) with minimal redirection and maximum enjoyment, achieving a work-life balance ratio of 0:100 over the next calendar year. I am confident you will achieve this goal with minimal assistance. Congratulations, Ann! Enjoy every last minute of retirement - you've earned it!

Katie Proietti  
Associate Principal, HMS/FWA

Congratulations on your retirement! Your passion for working with all students—especially those who needed a little extra time and care, has made a lasting impact. You brought a straightforward, no-nonsense approach that kept things real, yet always managed to find humor even in the hardest moments. Your honesty, heart, and steady presence will be missed more than you know, and so will your cookies and jam come holiday season! Wishing you all the best in this next well-earned chapter.

Dallas Herbst  
Associate Principal, HHS





## ***In Honor of Kristen Zullner***

*I had the pleasure of working closely with Kris when I was at HHS. I enjoyed building relationships with families in our home visits and learning from Kris. She has a wealth of knowledge about students, families, and our community and her passion for her work is evident. You will be missed, and we wish you well!*

*Jesse Powell  
Associate Principal, GMS*

*For 25 years, Kris has been a dedicated and compassionate advocate for multilingual learners in the HASD. Her unwavering commitment to her students and their families has created a welcoming, supportive environment where language is seen as a bridge, not a barrier. She has built lasting connections, empowering students to thrive and ensuring families feel heard and valued. Her kindness and dedication to education and her students have left a lasting mark on our district. Congratulations on your retirement, Kris!*

*Janna Cochrane  
Director of Learning*

*Thank you, Ms. Zullner, for always supporting and advocating for our ELL students across the district. Your warm and welcoming presence has made countless students feel welcome and cared for in our district.*

*Timothy Rietveld  
Principal, HHS*

*Kris has her priorities straight as she is all about relationships. She truly puts people first and is always willing to talk things through and share her experiences. We will miss her greatly and wish her the very best in her retirement!*

*Elisabeth Pascaly  
ELL Teacher, GES*

*Thank you for your dedication to so many students at HES! Your kind heart, compassion, & positive attitude is an inspiration to all of us. You will be missed by us all.  
Enjoy your retirement!*

*Sincerely,  
HES 2nd Grade Team*



*Dawn Hietpas, Liz Hirst, Gracee Minlschmidt, & Sheila Powers*

*I have had the honor of working with Kris Zullner for the past 21 years. During that time, she has been a coworker, role model, and friend. She has a heart of gold and always thinks about what is best for her students. The connections she makes with her students go beyond the classroom and are evident when students come back after graduation to attend our Family Nights.*

*I wish Kris the best in her retirement, but hope she knows how much she will be missed and how much we do appreciate everything she has done for our team.*

*Susan Blakewell  
ELL Teacher, GES*

*Thank you, Kris, for your many years supporting English language learners at HASD. I know your kindness and welcoming approach made these students feel more comfortable as they adapted to new home, learning environment, and language. When I sub for you, I am always so impressed by the progress these students make in such a short time. Your leadership in ELL will be missed!  
Enjoy retirement,*

*Janet Rowe  
Spanish Translation & Interpretation*

*I feel privileged to have known you for quite a while now. We go way back to our Rural Consortium days. You have always been such a positive person!! Anyone that you dealt with was always greeted with a kind smile. I will remember your kindness, your openness to new ideas and new things. I admire your dedication to our multilingual students and their families. Enjoy the extra time with your family. Thank you for your kindness, it is something I will certainly remember.*

*Katie Bushmaker  
6<sup>th</sup> Grade Teacher, GMS*

*Thank you for all you have done for the multilingual students of our district. Covering multiple buildings and servicing kids from grade ranges K-12 is no easy task. Regardless, I found that you had successfully forged solid relationships with all of the families at HES and got to know all of your students. I will miss your presence at HES and seeing your leadership at Family Night events. I wish you the very best in retirement.*

*Jared Deli  
Principal, HES*

*Congratulations on your retirement! Your passion and the dedication you brought to education and your students each day were truly inspiring. There's no educator who cared more deeply for the kids that they worked with. The relationships you built with families allowed them to feel included and engaged in all of our schools. You will be greatly missed!*

*Thomas Ellenbecker  
Human Resource Director*

*Your dedication to your students and families is so strong. You care with your whole heart and continuously do whatever it takes to ensure your students feel supported. Thank you for the dedication you have poured into our students. We are grateful for your commitment to HASD. May your retirement be a fun-filled adventure, you deserve this! With Gratitude,*

*Torrie Rochan  
Principal, HMS/FWA*

*Congratulations, Kris, on your retirement! It has always been wonderful to have you on the team, both in the English department at the high school and with professional development at the elementary school. Enjoy your crafting, reading, and, most importantly, your grandchildren. You will be missed!*

*Kristine Compton  
Literacy Interventionist, HES*

*We can't imagine how hard it is working with ELL students from Grades K-12. It sounds like an impossible task, but you have done it with ease. We wish you the best in retirement. Keep in touch! Best Wishes,*

*Missy Kohl, Lisa Ales, Sarah Gilbert, Serena Baehman, and Chris Kellett  
Teachers, HES/HMS*

*Kris, it has been such a pleasure to work with you and learn from you. Your positive attitude and dedication to children were always evident. Thank you for sharing your huge heart with HASD. Enjoy retirement! You will be missed! Sincerely,*

*Rachel Galloway  
Math Interventionist & Instructional Coach, GMS*

*We will all miss your smiling face in the halls of HES. Your commitment to teaching and helping students learn has always been apparent. We are sure that you will not miss the commute to HASD!!! Enjoy your retirement. We know you will enjoy the extra time with family.*

*Katie Tegge, Kim Meyer, Courtney Kalwitz, Wendy Sontag, and Chris Hanna  
HES Fourth Grade Team*

*Thank you, Kris, for your leadership in the EL department at HASD and the positive impact you have made on students and families over the years. Wishing you all the best in your retirement!*

*Anna Cihlar  
Associate Principal, HHS*

*Kris, your retirement marks the culmination of a career defined by deep dedication and unwavering passion for students with English language needs. You have always seen the potential in every learner, approaching each challenge with empathy, insight, and a firm belief in their ability to grow.*

*With a clear vision and deep expertise, you've thoughtfully equipped teachers with the tools and strategies they needed to support their students. Your ability to anticipate needs, provide practical solutions, and stay focused on what's best for learners has made a lasting difference.*

*Dallas Herbst  
Associate Principal, HHS*

*Thank you for your dedication and kindness to our ELL learners and families, Kris!  
The care, time, and love you have given to your position and this district did not go unnoticed.  
Enjoy this next chapter, you have earned it!!! Hugs-*

*Nicole Eidahl  
Music Teacher, NGES*





*Retirees:*

*As you head off on an  
amazing new chapter in  
your life, we want to send  
wonderful wishes with you  
for your retirement.  
Enjoy your family and  
friends.  
Enjoy your Retirement.*

*Thank you to all the staff  
and guests for attending.*

*Board of Education*