

2010-11 Hamilton School District Retirees

Jane Gutmann Special service paraprofessional Templeton Middle School

As a special education paraprofessional aide, Jane Gutmann consistently demonstrated dedication to providing educational support to help students increase their understanding and achievement in all content areas. She also helped students increase their personal confidence and independence as learners. Jane was patient in her professional demeanor, focused on developing positive rapport with students and always positive.

Jane provided 17 years of outstanding service to the Hamilton School District. She started in the district in 1990 as a cook. In 1993, she shifted positions and became a special services aide at Marcy Elementary School. Since 1999, she has been a special services paraprofessional at Templeton Middle School. In addition to her role in the schools, Jane is a pet therapist evaluator, teacher and assistant trainer.

Words that describe Jane as a professional colleague include collaborative, flexible, conscientious, supportive and effective. Time and again, Jane was willing to do what was needed to be done to help students. For these reasons, the staff, students and parents of Templeton Middle School and the Hamilton School District wish Jane the very best as she begins exciting new adventures in the next chapter of her life.

Pamela Jajtner Title I kindergarten paraprofessional Maple Avenue Elementary School

Maple Avenue Elementary has benefited from Pamela Jajtner's dedication to the school and Title I kindergartners. She created a warm, nurturing environment for the students and developed wonderful relationships – interacting with students at their level of understanding and always in a positive, caring manner. They, in turn, truly enjoyed working with her.

Pamela was with the Hamilton School District since 1992. She worked at Templeton Middle School as a reading aide and in the school office for seven years before joining the Maple Avenue staff. She had volunteered as a religious education teacher, Girl Scout leader, room mom and poms instructor before working in the district.

She was known for jumping right in during lessons – supporting all students who needed assistance. Pamela connected her intervention services to mainstream classroom activities and picked up on classroom strategies and vocabulary to carry over into her small group setting. She did a nice job supervising students in the hallways, cafeteria and on the playground. Parent helpers and new paraprofessionals often looked to her for direction and have enjoyed working with her.

Richard L. Petersohn, Jr. Fifth grade teacher Marcy Elementary School

Richard Petersohn's extraordinary career was defined by his dedication and caring. He was focused on positive results, and always gave extra time to students after school or during lunch time. Richard was known for his creative science lessons and his knowledge of children's literature. His fascinating and varied background experiences as a cartographer and a photojournalist in the Army gave him an arsenal of anecdotes to enliven his lessons.

Richard began teaching in the Hamilton School District in 1975 at Templeton Middle School, teaching fifth- and sixth-graders. He taught fourth grade at Maple Avenue Elementary School for two years before returning to Templeton as a classroom teacher and later as a reading specialist. Since 1996 he taught fifth grade at Marcy Elementary School. He earned bachelor's degrees in geography, history and elementary education and his master's degree in reading from Cardinal Stritch College. Prior to teaching, he was a regional planner at the Southeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission.

Richard has been a good-natured colleague with a fun sense of humor, and was unselfish with his ideas and time. Richard will be remembered for organizing Camp Soar, the fifth grade camp outing. For the past seven years, the students have gained strong cooperation skills and memories that will last a lifetime. Thousands of students remember Mr. P. as the remarkable teacher who took the time to get to know them, to challenge them and to value them.

Mary Ann Porwoll
Music teacher
Maple Avenue Elementary School

Mary Ann Porwoll is an educator who made a positive impact on everyone with whom she worked. Her creativity, passion, musical talents and love of children were reflected in the quality instruction she provided. Mary Ann differentiated instruction, never losing sight of students' individual talents and musical abilities, enabling all students to experience success in her classroom. Staff, students and their families have enjoyed her top quality musical and drama performances.

Mary Ann has been a music teacher in the Hamilton School District since 1991. She was the Hamilton High School choral director for 16 years and later taught general music at the high school, Templeton Middle School and Woodside, Willow Springs and Maple Avenue elementary schools. In addition to her work in the district, she taught music in St. Paul Public Schools, Waukesha Catholic School System and Alverno College Community Outreach. She earned her bachelor's degree from Moorhead State University in Minnesota and her master's degree from Carroll University.

Mary Ann's contributions to school and district committees were productive, realistic and helpful in moving the district forward. Her enthusiasm for learning and integrating technology into existing curriculum has been contagious. Colleagues benefited from her knowledge, time and willingness to share resources and ideas.

Maple Avenue's students and staff have been blessed to have Mary Ann on staff and will truly miss her positivity and never-ending passion.

Marilynn Schumann
Executive assistant/School Board assistant clerk
Superintendent's Office

Marilynn Schumann provided extraordinary service to the Hamilton School District for 23 years. She started her administrative assistant career in the district at Templeton Middle School and then Hamilton High School, working in the principal's offices. She was the superintendent's executive assistant and Hamilton School Board assistant clerk for the past 14 years. She was highly respected for her outstanding technical and organizational abilities as well as her exemplary interpersonal skills.

Marilynn was flexible and quickly adjusted to arising needs or changing courses of action, never missing a deadline or responsibility. Her word processing, proofreading and editing skills combined with her speed and accuracy resulted in masterful execution of responsibilities. In addition to her organizational and technical skills, Marilynn was skillful at anticipating needs and always one step ahead regarding upcoming assignments, meetings, reports and responsibilities.

Marilynn created a helpful, welcoming environment for constituents who contacted the district. As the first person with whom the public interacted, her work formed an important first impression of a pleasant, helpful and caring individual. She was an expert at understanding people, and her insights and political astuteness resulted in effective problem solving and decision making.

Marilynn consistently demonstrated the highest degree of personal and professional integrity. She was highly confidential, dedicated and loyal – a role model for professional excellence and an extraordinary asset to the Hamilton School District.

William T. Steiner
Eighth grade social studies
Templeton Middle School

An energetic and dedicated professional, William Steiner engaged his students in the process of learning by consistently modeling his personal enthusiasm for social studies and history. He involved students in meaningful and thoughtful discussions by asking probing questions to foster deeper inquiry and by using analogies and modern day experiences to help students make connections with abstract concepts and content material.

William has been a teacher in the Hamilton School District for the past 22 years. After beginning his educational career at Tremper High School in Kenosha where he taught for one year, William joined Hamilton High School as a staff member and taught social studies for two and a half years. Later, he became a Templeton teacher. He earned his bachelor's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in history and political science, and his master's degree in education from Viterbo University.

He was a relationship builder with his students. Focused on building positive rapport to increase achievement, William was an effective storyteller who helped students make mind pictures of historical events. He also was extremely effective at using humor to activate the learning environment. William has been a dedicated, reflective and child-centered educator. He has been a collaborative team member and always had the success of all students as his primary goal.

Kathleen Voss-Schwartz
Speech-language pathologist
Lannon Elementary School

Kathleen Voss-Schwartz has been a speech-language pathologist for more than 32 years – contributing 29 ½ years of service to the Hamilton School District. She has a wonderful manner with children, making them instantly feel comfortable. Her mission is to guide them to reach their goals through fun and motivational learning activities. Time and time again, Kathleen was able to dismiss children from her program because they had achieved success and were ready to move on to other challenges.

Kathleen earned her bachelor's degree in communicative disorders from the University of Wisconsin (UW)-Eau Claire and her master's degree in speech-language pathology from UW-Milwaukee. Kathleen began her career teaching in Waukesha County's first early childhood class in the Waukesha School District. She was later hired by Waukesha County Special Education to work in the Hamilton School District. She has worked at Maple Avenue, Main-Orchard and Marcy elementary schools, as well as Templeton Middle School and Hamilton High School. For the past 22 years, Lannon Elementary School has been her home school where she provided exemplary services to many students.

Though children were always Kathleen's number one priority, she was also an integral part of the Lannon staff. Her participation on many school committees was invaluable, and her knowledge, expertise and experience were highly valued. Kathleen's kindness, humor and friendship will be greatly missed.

Joel Worden
Night Foreman Custodian
Hamilton High School

Joel Worden was employed by the Hamilton School District as a custodian at Hamilton High School since 1997. Serving as the night foreman, Joel was a great example to his fellow employees – his work ethic was second to none. With Joel's leadership, the custodial staff excelled.

Prior to joining the Hamilton School District, Joel worked at Pabst Brewery Company in Milwaukee, where he was responsible for maintenance in the power house and refrigeration. He also had been a boiler operator at Sinai Samaritan in Milwaukee.

Joel brought outstanding skills to the district, and was able to handle the responsibilities of handling many varied events at the school. He also ran the summer cleaning crew and other maintenance projects throughout the year. He was willing to go the extra mile to make sure the high school was safe and orderly for the students and staff. His leadership and work ethic will be very hard to replace.