



TEACHER
RECOGNITION
DINNER 2016



Wednesday, May 4, 2016
Knights of Columbus
114 W. First St. - Mishawaka
Sponsored by Teachers Credit Union



Reception • 5:30 p.m.

Dinner • 6:00 p.m.

Welcome & Invocation*Dr. Bruce Stahly*

Polish Style Buffet

Program

Introductions.....*Dr. Theodore Stevens*

Presentation of Service Awards*Dr. Theodore Stevens*

Recognition of Retirees.....*Dr. Theodore Stevens*

Remarks *Eric Johnson 2015 Teacher of the Year*

Recognition of 2016 Teachers of the Year.....*Dr. Theodore Stevens, Principals*

Presentation of the SCM 2016 Teacher of the Year.....*Jeffery E. Emmons, President
Board of School Trustees*

Presentation of Award..... *Dave Defauw
Mishawaka Lions Club*

Closing Remarks..... *Dr. A. Dean Speicher*

**Thank you to Teachers Credit Union
for sponsoring this event**

represented by

Deborah Stilp, Veronica Torres, Sara Zappia, Jennifer Wagnerowski,
Laura Waite, Darren DeWitt, Matt Grabner, Jeff Sobieralski

Board of School Trustees 2016

Jeffery E. Emmons, President

Larry E. Stillson, Vice President • Holly Parks, Secretary

Dennis R. Wood, Member • William D. Pemberton, Member

Superintendent of Schools

Dr. A. Dean Speicher

2016 Service Award Recipients

30 Years

Deb Nawrot
Emmons School

Luanne Bolin
LaSalle School

Jill Sells
Liberty School

25 Years

Anita Hosinski
Mishawaka High School

Lisa Pethick
Oaklawn - The Children's Campus

Charlene F. McKay
Battell School

Daniel R. Towner
Beiger School

Eilleen Kalman
Exceptional Learners

Shelly Sparrow
Twin Branch School

Andrew G. Horban
John Young Middle School

Randy Nicks
Oaklawn - The Children's Campus

20 Years

Michael A. Stahly
John Young Middle School

Jennifer Waite
Twin Branch School

Amy Foley
Mishawaka High School

Shelley Brandenburg
Twin Branch School

Angie Taylor
Emmons School

Lisa Marie Westfall
Emmons School

Mike Fisher
John Young Middle School

Kenneth Horvath
John Young Middle School

Janine Mabry
Liberty School

15 Years

Stacie Campbell
Emmons School

Karen Demske
Beiger School

Amber Brugh
Beiger School

Cindy Hesch
Emmons School

Tracey Iams
Oaklawn - The Children's Campus

Linda King
Oaklawn - The Children's Campus

2016 Retirees

*Thank you
for serving our children...*



Kathleen Molnar

Emmons & Hums Elementary Schools
41 years of service

Patti Reeder

Beiger Elementary School
38 years of service

Karen Baierl

John Young Middle School
26 years of service

Andrew G. Horban

John Young Middle School
25 years of service



Sean Dillon Physical Education

BATTELL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Why you decided to teach:

“I enjoy working with children and want to make a difference in their lives.”

What you hope to give your students:

“A thirst for life-long learning and an appreciation for hard work.”

Education

Bishop Guilfoyle High School
Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, Indiana
Indiana University, South Bend

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Battell Elementary – Physical Education, Math Intervention, 5th, 4th/5th Grades

Karey Bultinck First Grade

BEIGER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Why you decided to teach:

“When I was younger I always enjoyed being around children but it was not until I was in college that I decided to become a teacher. I spent a lot of time volunteering in my mom’s classroom when I was in college. That was when I realized just how much I loved working with children and decided to become a teacher...”

What you hope to give your students:

“My hope is that my students develop self-confidence by experiencing success in the classroom. I want them to achieve the confidence needed in life. I feel confidence is gained by experiencing success at school. I hope my students continue to learn on their own outside of school and are able to fulfill their personal goals.

Education

Mishawaka High School
Indiana University South Bend
Indiana Wesleyan University

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Beiger Elementary – 1st Grade
Liberty Elementary – 1st Grade, 2nd Grade, 2nd/3rd Grade,
Reading Recovery/Literacy

Kent Litwiller Physical Education

EMMONS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Why you decided to teach:

“To inspire youth in the classroom and on the competitive playing field!”

What you hope to give your students:

“Work Ethic, confidence, and the ability to handle adversity.”

Education

Olympia High School

Hesston College

Goshen College

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Emmons Elementary School – Physical Education

Beiger Elementary School – 6th Grade

Battell Elementary School – 5th Grade

Tracey Hoffman Kindergarten

HUMS ELEMENTARY SCHOOL



Why you decided to teach:

“My grandmother, aunt, and mother were all school teachers so I think teaching was just in my “blood”. I remember my grandma bringing me some of her old teaching manuals when I was little and playing school with my dolls for hours in my basement. I always knew that I could never have a monotonous office job or I would be bored out of my mind. Teaching is definitely a job where I am never, ever bored and it really is the perfect job for me.”

What you hope to give your students:

“Because kindergarten is the first school experience for most of the children that I teach, I want to teach my students that school is a positive and safe place to learn. I want my students to not only learn the academic skills but I want to teach them how to be good, well rounded little people too who are friendly and caring towards others and have good manners.”

Education

Wawasee High School
Purdue University

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Hums Elementary School – Kindergarten
Battell Elementary School – Kindergarten

Jeanie Prenkert Intervention Teacher



LASALLE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Why you decided to teach:

"I was helping in a children's Sunday school class during my senior year in high school when I first thought about being a teacher. The real moment of inspiration for teaching came while talking to a young redheaded boy at church camp. The boy was lacking self-confidence and finding reasons to believe he would never be good at anything. I remember trying to encourage him with reasons why he was already full of greatness and why he was an important person. His smile left a lasting impression on my heart. All children need someone who is going to believe in them and remind them they are capable of greatness."

What you hope to give your students:

"Determination – I want them to know that anything is possible. It does not matter what kind of family they have, how much money they have, or how well they can recall information right now. If they can set goals for themselves, determination will help them achieve those goals. Determination is that positive voice inside your heart that never gives up."

Education

Port Huron Northern High School
Bethel College

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

LaSalle Elementary – Intervention, 2nd Grade, 5th Grade, MEA Aide
Battell Elementary – 4th Grade
Beiger Elementary – Prime Time Aide: 3rd Grade, 2nd Grade

Angela Runyun 4th Grade



Why you decided to teach:

"As a child of a low income, single parent family, I attended a total of nine schools between kindergarten and graduation. With each move, came increased social anxiety and uncertainty. However, there was one common factor with each move: a teacher who instinctively nurtured and loved me...I became the first generation to graduate college in my family. It is thanks to them that I teach."

What you hope to give your students:

"I hope to give all of my students a sense of being loved and a belief in their future. At the beginning of each school year, I tell my students that I have one biological child, but twenty-eight others that sit in my classroom...They will consume my mind and heart. I will worry about them when they are absent or struggling and I will celebrate with them when they achieve and grow."

Education

Seminole High School
Eckerd College
Indiana University
Purdue University

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Liberty Elementary School – 4th Grade, 6th Grade
Twin Branch Elementary School – Mild/Severe Disabilities K–6
Elsie Rogers Elementary – Mild/Severe Disabilities K–3, Program Assistant

Gina Marchi 1st/2nd Grade D.E.E.P.



Why you decided to teach:

"I started teaching my dolls and stuffed animals when I was 3 or 4 years old. Teaching is something I was born to do. At a time when college students were being dissuaded to enter the teaching profession, the late great Marvin Wood convinced me that the world would always need teachers. If it were not for him, I probably would have chosen a different career path."

What you hope to give your students:

"I hope to instill in my students a lifelong passion for learning, and encourage them to always reach for their dreams. I also want them to be good citizens who truly care about others. It is important for them to understand that the world may sometimes be difficult, but faith, compassion, and forgiveness can make a difference. I want my students to have a positive outlook on life, and never let others steal their joy. I believe that through hard work and effort anything is possible."

Education

Mishawaka High School
Indiana University, Bloomington
Indiana University, South Bend

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Twin Branch Elementary – 1st/2nd Grade D.E.E.P., 3rd/4th Grade D.E.E.P.
Liberty Elementary – 2nd Grade
Battell Elementary – 3rd, 4th, 2nd, 2nd/3rd, 1st/2nd Grades
LaSalle Elementary – Kindergarten, ECAP
Emmons Elementary – 2nd Grade

Haley Lake General Music

JOHN YOUNG MIDDLE SCHOOL



Why you decided to teach:

"I decided to teach because of the outcome. I've always had a large amount of respect for teachers and their willingness to devote time and energy to student engagement. I love to see/hear when students make connections between the content that we learn within the classroom to real-life experiences...Teaching fulfills my desire to help/assist when necessary. It also allows me to lead by example, knowing that I AM making a difference. Teaching also comes naturally. I come from a musical family with a long line of educators...I love teaching because I get to know the students in a different way, through music; something that most students already enjoy."

What you hope to give your students:

"I hope to pass along lifelong skills that assist my students with successful futures both in and out of the classroom. I also stress the importance of being a well-rounded individual. I hope that they leave middle school feeling excited about their future and the many possibilities. I want to empower my students, giving them confidence and sparking the desire to try something new...I hope that my students get to see their hard work pay off and their hopes become realities as well. This is what I hope to give my students."

Education

Penn High School

Indiana University of South Bend

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

John Young Middle School – 7th & 8th Grade General Music, Music History

Photo by Kristin Plonski

Jessica Mann English



Why you decided to teach:

"I am an educator because it is the best way for me to use my skills to impact the world."

What you hope to give your students:

"A solid foundation in the skills they'll need to be successful students and participants in society. The confidence they need to tackle complicated problems."

Education

Endicott High School
Colgate University
Indiana University

School City of Mishawaka Work Experience

Mishawaka High School – English 10, Cadet Teaching, Summer Bridge 9th Grade

Photo by Peter Ringenberg

School City of Mishawaka Teachers of the Year

Eric Johnson – 2015
Stacy Minegar – 2014
Ron Gill – 2013
David M. Weber – 2012
Suzanne Dolembro – 2011
Sandu Harrell – 2010
Sara Hoover – 2009
Tracey Iams – 2008
Roxy Artusi – 2007
Shelly L. Sparrow – 2006
Edward B. Chamberlin – 2005
Linda L. Risner – 2004
Tressa M. Decker – 2003
Judith A. O'Hair Byers – 2002
John Manuszak – 2001
Nancy Darr – 2000
Robert J. Ernst – 1999
Karen Jean Watson – 1998
Sheila J. Bottorff – 1997
Kay Davidson – 1996
Caryn Ellison – 1995
John P. Gleissner – 1994
Cheryl Torok Fleming & Edward L. Fleming – 1993
Juanita Ernst – 1992
Nancy Olson – 1991
Janet D. MacLean – 1990
Marcia DeGeeter Rieder – 1989
Marian Norris – 1988