

Retirement & Recognition



June 14, 2021

Recognition for Years of Service

We would like to extend our gratitude to the following staff members who have reached a benchmark in their career with Dexter Community Schools. Through the years, their talents and efforts have helped our success. Together, we take pride in their accomplishment and their commitment to excellence.

5 Years

Emily Arbour
Jamie Aumend
Elizabeth Berghorst
Sabrena Blumberg
Ryan Bruder
Kevin Cislo
Michael Downing
Ashley Dorr
Ed Gauthier
Stacey Girbach
Murphy Hansen
Alex Heidtke
Dianne Hughes
Bill Ivan
Stacey Keeler
Ashley Kerns
Kristen Linn
Debra Murrel
Anne Nakon
Sharon Norris
Thomas Nortley
James Payeur
Jennifer Porcaro
Angela Ripka
Amy Sadler
Keri Sata
Steven Schuler
Michelle Sprague
Anna Vess
Michelle Watters

10 Years

Morris Boyd
Abby Holland
Heidi Lakey
David Ledwidge
Kelli Nowaczck
Brett Pedersen
Daniel Slabaugh
Suzanne Spence
Karen Sullivan

15 Years

Tracy Baker
Melanie Dever
Kristie Doyle
Deborah Gallaher
Maureen Kline
Cheryl Martin
Ricki Jo McQuarrie
William Moran
Marianne Mutschler
Brian Semple
Janine Shoner
Tracy Stahl
Brenda Stanton
Amy Vimawala
Karen Walls
Jane Webby

20 Years

James Barnes
Linda Barthol
Cheryl Darnton
Pauline Dawson
Valerie Eninsche
Jill Fyke
Susan Gowen
Ken Koenig
Jane Montero
Brian Schuler
Joanne Shipley
Nancy Willis
Carla Wilson

25 Years

Cory Bergen
Jeff Dagg
Shannon Javis
Jennifer Johnson
Karen Porter

30 Years

Alice Hinterman

Recognition for Retirement

Today we recognize the hard work and dedication of our retirees. As they move ahead into retirement, it is undeniable that each and every one of them has left behind a legacy of achievement, encouragement and dedication to the students and staff of Dexter Community Schools. I hope you can look back on your time with us as one of achievement and a job well done. Here's hoping that you find the same in whatever adventures lie ahead.

This year's retirees include:

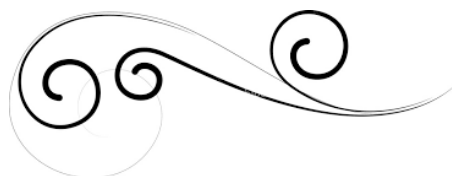
Certified Staff

Jeff Dagg
Melinda Hieber
Alice Hinterman
William (Kit) Moran
Julianne Snider

Support Staff

Randall Dennis
Sheila Durham
Karen Franson
Diana Gignac
Gerald Goebel
Joan Maloney
Vicki Sipple

A few of the retirees from this year have written a message to be shared regarding their careers and plans for retirement. These messages are listed in alphabetical order on the pages that follow. Please join us in wishing all of our retirees the best of health & happiness as they begin the next chapter of life!



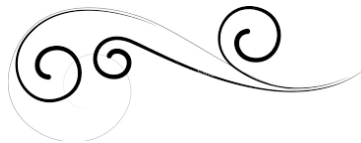
Message from Gerald Goebel

I have enjoyed being a bus driver for 13 years. Thank you Dexter Community Schools!

Message from Melinda Hieber

I'm very thankful for my 31-year career in the Dexter Community Schools. I began in 1990 as a contracted occupational therapist working with special education students in kindergarten through high school and I eventually added Early On and preschool, too. In 2009, I was hired as the first occupational therapist on the staff of Dexter Community Schools. I'm thankful to Mary Pat Holst for supporting the creation of this position. For the past twelve years I've worked with ECSE students, community preschoolers, and Y5-2nd grade students at Anchor (Cornerstone) and Beacon (Bates). I've enjoyed being able to be a part of the support system for many students and families. I've worked with many wonderful administrators, including my current ones- Anne Nakon, Craig McCalla and Ryan Bruder- and staff over the past many years. I've created meaningful relationships with many of these people and will enjoy the memories and friendships for years to come.

I've had a wonderful career as an occupational therapist. I'm happy to be able to look back on many great years. I'm looking forward to a healthy and happy retirement which will include time with family, traveling and enjoying many outdoor activities!



Message from Alice Hinterman

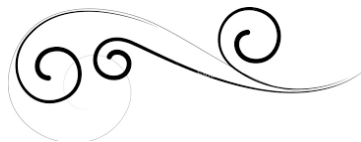
I have had a long and satisfying career as a children's librarian in Dexter. A highlight of my time here was being able to contribute design ideas for the Cornerstone Media Center, and to establish and grow a brand new library into a mature collection and facility. I love reading books to children, and I've enjoyed being able to do so every day for many school years. I expect that my retirement will be filled with books!

Message from William (Kit) Moran

It has been my pleasure to be the principal of Dexter High School for the last 15 years. We have built an incredible team and developed a positive student and staff culture at DHS. I am most proud of the tone and feel of our building. Students feel supported and cared for and staff feel listened to and valued as people and teachers. A building leader could not ask for anything more.

I am sure DHS will continue on an upward trajectory to improve how we help students navigate their teen years and the challenges these present.

I am not sure what the next chapter holds but I doubt I'll ever be a part of a team as cohesive and family-like again. Dexter High School is a special place.



Message from Julianne Snider

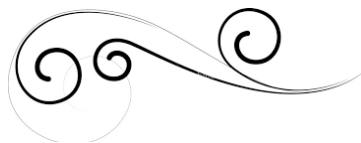
I vividly recall the afternoon I interviewed with Evelyn Shirk, Principal and Sally Bolter, a then retiring English teacher at Wylie. Halfway through the interview, Evelyn asked if I was applying for the 8th grade English job. "No, I'm applying for the 7th grade science position." We all laughed and I was hired as a science teacher. I have been laughing with colleagues and administrators ever since. I am most proud of the rich collaboration I have enjoyed with so many in our common goal to help children.

Without my supportive administrators who respected my autonomy, I would have never been able to accomplish programs I am most proud of. After six years teaching science, I created a Focus class at Mill Creek called S4, or Skills and Strategies for Student Success (Sara Dansky, one of my many mentors, came up with that!). Ms. Shirk allowed me to grow the program to include research teachings by librarian Linda Livingstone and the technology teachings of focus teacher Sue McCarthy. The inclusion of Linda allowed Sue and I to divide our two Focus classes between three instructors. Linda taught kids how to research, I taught kids how to question and compose, and Sue taught kids how to create a research essay on the computer. Our program was a great success. The three of us even took our show on the road to conferences.

I am also proud to have developed a Book Club program at Mill Creek, engaging students with choice and a simple approach (within the reach of all students) to literature analysis. It allowed students to find fun in reading and enabled every student to actively share findings and opinions in their small group discussion.

The last five years of my DCS career, Dr. Timmis gave me the opportunity to be the lead teacher in developing Dexter Alternative High School. I was well supported by my administrator, Ken Koenig, but I was free to design and carry out our mission with great latitude. When I asked for more social work support, Barb Santo provided it to me, and more importantly, to our students. In five years, we have graduated thirty-six of forty-four students, or 82%; we are still working to get one more over the finish line!. I would describe my collaboration with special education teacher Katie Heikkila, and social worker, Shelley Rychener, as a blitz-krieg assault upon whatever forces keep students from their own success. I will miss the high energy spent to reach and lead our students, and the endless laughs that keep day-to-day life fun, sometimes hilarious, for us and for the kids, whether they appreciate it or not.

My life with Dexter Community Schools has been an inspiration.



One Hundred Years From Now

One hundred years from now
it will not matter what kind of car I drove,
what kind of house I lived in,
how much money was in my bank account
nor what my clothes looked like.
But the world may be a better place
because I was important in the life of a child.

