

ANTHONY JOHN FERRARA, JR.
Class of 1970
Mynderse Academy Principal 1984-2014



Anthony grew up in Seneca Falls, N.Y. and is a 1970 graduate of Mynderse Academy. After high school, he went on to earn a B.S. in Physical Education from the University of Nebraska in 1974, where he later received his Masters' in Education and Administration credentials in 1979.

He married Elaine Pezzulo Ferrara in 1985 and has two adult children, Lindsey Marie Ferrara (Mynderse Academy class of 2005) and Jacqueline Ferrara Read (Mynderse class of 2007, son-in-law Gregory Read and grandson Grayson Anthony). Anthony taught for four years in the Council Bluffs School District (Iowa) and, upon returning to New York in 1978, taught at Aquinas Institute in Rochester where he was the head basketball coach until 1983. After teaching and coaching one year at Bishop Kearney High School in Rochester, he was fortunate to earn the position of assistant principal at Mynderse Academy in August of 1984, serving under then principal Gerald Macaluso. In 1989, Anthony was given the privilege to be the principal of Mynderse Academy, a position that he held until his retirement in 2014. He currently serves as the athletic director at Mynderse Academy, a position held for the last three years.

As the oldest child of the late Anthony and Jane Ferrara, he was raised in Seneca Falls along with his two younger brothers, David (Kathy) Ferrara and Michael (Frances) Ferrara. Anthony attributes any success he has earned to his mother, Jane, who raised the three boys alone after her husband died when he was just 10 years old.

“She was by far the driving force in finishing high school and going to college. She felt it was the best opportunity to achieve success,” says Ferrara. “Our mother taught us responsibility at an early age, and her hard work also left a lasting

impression. That work ethic, responsibility, and commitment to family that has stayed with us and shaped our professional careers and family lives.”

Anthony has kept those lessons close at heart and passed them on to his children and students. As he saw more and more challenges arise in education with each passing year, he tried his best to impress upon his students a respect for authority and has instilled in many that the way to achieve their goals is through hard work and commitment. Yet while hard work has certainly been a driving force in Anthony’s life, he never considered his time at Mynderse Academy to be “work”. He is living proof of the adage that if you enjoy your job, you’ll never work a day in your life. “Working for the Mynderse Academy community has not been a job. It’s been a wonderful experience, and I very much appreciate the opportunity it afforded me.”