JO ANN SCHOMBURG

Jo Ann Schomburg was born Jo Ann Beckett in Cairo, Illinois, along with her twin brother, Joey. They were the first of Tom and Nettie Beckett's ten children. She graduated from Herculaneum High School in 1963 and married 2nd Lt. Kenneth Williams in 1965. The Williamses moved to Viernheim, Germany, where he was stationed, and their daughter, Dana, was born in 1966 in Heidelberg. Jo Ann graduated from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, in 1975 with a Bachelor of Science dual degree in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education.

Jo Ann began her professional career by starting the first Title I Math Program at Pevely Elementary, servicing grades one through five, beginning in 1976. She pursued graduate classes in math and computer science at SIUE where she was published in the school's Seedbed Magazine. Sadly, Jo Ann's husband passed away in 1981.

In 1985, the Dunklin R-5 District's Title I Math Program tied for third place and was given the Math Award at the National Convention in Philadelphia. A year later, Jo Ann married Lynn Schomburg. She piloted voluntary after-school tutoring programs and wrote grants for laptop computers for students to take home. She corresponded with Scholastic DynaMath Magazine about creating a magazine with a format of plays and game boards for younger, struggling students. She was invited to a forum in New York City, along with her husband, to meet with fellow educators and create ideas for the upcoming magazines. Jo Ann's name and the Dunklin district were featured on the cover of all the magazines that year.

In 1993, Jo Ann wrote the grant that provided a computer lab, and then volunteered to implement the lab in the evenings for community members as well as students. She then wrote a grant to fund teachers at all the district schools to offer an after-school computer lab. She finished graduate school with honors from the University of Missouri, St. Louis, in 1995 and began teaching Remedial Reading along with Math the next year.

In 2003, Jo Ann was sent to Herculaneum High School to teach the students from The Kids House. These students were neglected and delinquent children introduced to our district. Often their needs were overwhelming, and Jo Ann was the perfect person to help them. With her love, understanding, patience, and caring, these young people, who many times had nothing and no one, found in Mrs. Schomburg, a most trusted advocate. You could watch these frightened and often rebellious teenagers evolve and blossom. Jo Ann worked magic with them.

After The Kids House closed, Jo Ann returned to teaching Remedial Math and then Remedial Reading. Starting in 2001, Jo Ann and her husband, Lynn, started donating time and effort and delicious food to our district! They created a Hospitality Room for our district employees at the high school home football games. The folks of Dunklin have gathered together at football and a few other sports for the last two decades. Jo Ann and Lynn, a husband who is totally devoted to his wife and her school district, work for hours at each event to oversee and provide everything for the hospitality room.

Jo Ann retired from full-time teaching in 2008. Along the way, her daughter, Dana, had married and given her three grandchildren. She continues to teach part-time, now at Pevely Elementary, and she and Lynn are still working hard with the hospitality rooms. Jo Ann continues to show generosity, ambition, compassion, and just plain love to every student and adult who is lucky enough to know her. The Dunklin R-5 School District has greatly benefitted from having the competence and lifelong dedication of Jo Ann Schomburg.