

DR. VERNA WEINSTOCK HILLSTROM

Warren High School Class of 1966



Dr. Verna Hillstrom is a 1966 graduate of Warren High School and a 1970 graduate from The Ohio State University with a Bachelor of Science degree in microbiology. She then went on to receive her medical degree from The

Ohio State University College of Medicine in 1973. She completed her internship and residency at Hennepin County Medical Center, Minneapolis, Minnesota.

She is currently employed at North Memorial Clinic, Elk River, Minnesota. She is board certified in family medicine and is a member of the American Academy of Family Practice and the Minnesota Academy of Family Practice. In addition, she has served various years as Clinical Associate Professor, Department of Family Practice at the University of Minnesota for precepting medical students.

She and her husband are active in their local church and teach second through fourth graders in Sunday School. They have led a mission team to Choluteca, Honduras, yearly for the past four years and were a part of the church's first mission trip there five years ago. They are committed to helping the people of Honduras in any way they can and love the people there. Other trips as a missionary doctor were to Nepal 1980-84 and to Haiti in 1985.

She and her husband have one daughter, Val, who is a nurse in labor and delivery and who will be getting married this fall.

Dr. Hillstrom says the following about her years at Warren, "I count my education at Warren High School and my elementary education at Vincent Grade School and the Barlow-Vincent Ele-

mentary School as foundational for my whole career. I realize now that although Warren High was not a large school, I could not have asked for a better education. My teachers were the greatest! Mr. Max Smith was my science teacher from junior high through high school physics. I remember that the pre-med physics course at OSU was actually easy because of what Mr. Smith had taught me. Mr. Ernie Pearson was one of the best math teachers anyone could ever have. I still remember his challenge to all of us to think of just one original idea! (I'm still thinking!) He helped me win the county math competition one year over arch-rival Fort Frye, and did that ever make my dad (who was principal then) proud!! Mrs. Kristen Holt was such an inspiration in Spanish that I took a year in college and still love it. My Spanish has come back on our trips to Honduras and even vacations in Mexico—and I want to keep studying it! Mr. Hess was my band teacher for many years, including my early years of learning how to play flute and piccolo. I still remember the fun band trips we took and Mr. Hess's telling me in marching band to pretend that my music holder for my flute (which I had to hold up with my left arm while playing with both hands on my flute) was attached to a star. That helped me keep my head up while marching.

I consider it a great honor, indeed, to be in Warren High's Hall of Honor, notwithstanding the fact that my parents played a huge part in my education. My mother and father always emphasized the importance of a good education. I credit the Lord for giving me the courage and strength to pursue the goals He has given me. I would want other Warren High students to 'reach for stars' as well in their lives. I believe that success lies not in what you do, however, but in who you are."

