

TED NOVAK

Class of 1967

Elizabeth Cady Stanton Principal 1989-2005



Ted was born and raised in Seneca Falls. He graduated from St. Patrick's Elementary School and then attended Mount Carmel High School in Auburn, NY for his freshman year of high school. Ted returned to Mynderse Academy as a sophomore and graduated from Mynderse in 1967.

During his high school years at Mynderse, Ted was on the basketball and track teams. He was privileged to play on one of NYS Basketball's Hall of Fame Coach Norm Law's teams. After graduating from

Mynderse, Ted went on to play basketball all four years of college at the State University of New York at Oswego. He credits much of his athletic accomplishments to his teammates and coaches along the way.

In 1971, Ted married college girlfriend Patricia Hopkins and moved to Seneca Falls where he began his teaching and coaching career. When Ted was first hired, he was given the freshman basketball coaching position and it was during this coaching assignment that he met and became friends with Hall of Fame Coach John Nicholson. When John became the head basketball coach, he selected Ted to be the junior varsity coach. During Ted's short five-year basketball coaching career, he produced some very successful teams. In 1974 his JV team went undefeated. Those players went on to even greater accomplishments on John's varsity teams. In 1976, and with the birth of his first son, Mark, Ted decided to end his high school coaching career. With the birth of his two daughters, Marla and Marissa, Ted volunteered to re-enter the coaching ranks in the local youth basketball program. He coached both boys' and girls' basketball teams for several years.

Ted went on to teach fourth grade in Seneca Falls for 18 years. In 1989, he was offered the principal's position at Elizabeth Cady Stanton Elementary School. His love of sports and especially Mynderse athletics never died. Even though his

coaching days had ended, Ted continued to help in various athletic programs. He served as scorekeeper for both Coach Nicholson and Coach Scott Smith in the 1990's. He helped Coach Al Henry for several years announcing and scorekeeping for Al's lacrosse teams. Even following his retirement as principal, Ted continued to assist Mynderse in various capacities. He worked with Superintendent Bob McKeveny, the District Facilities Committee, and the Board of Education on the conversion of Bracht Field from grass to the multi-purpose turf surface in use today. At the same time, Ted helped with the planning and construction of the Ronald Fleury Track & Field Complex. For several years, Ted and Truman Bells worked in the press box controlling the new Bracht Field digital scoreboard during all home football, boys' and girls' soccer, and boys' and girls' lacrosse games.

In 2010, Rod Verkey was granted approval to create a Mynderse Academy Athletic Hall of Fame and asked Ted to be a member of that initial committee. He continues to humbly serve on this committee today.

Ted recently celebrated his 51st wedding anniversary to Patricia. The couple has three children--Mark (Jaime) Novak, Marla (John) Graves, and Marissa (Andres) Garcia. They also have five grandchildren--Jack, James, Malia, Delphine, and Ned.