



**EPHRATA**  
**SCHOOL DISTRICT**

**Class of 2023 Retirees**

# Connie Balciar

10 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Connie worked as a bus driver with the Transportation Department.

Words to describe Connie:

- Dedicated
- Honest
- Hardworking
- Kind hearted
- Organized
- Strong Leader



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** "Laughter at work & most of all my kiddos."

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** "Not getting up so early, and TRAVELING with friends & family. Also being able to help at blood drives and food banks."

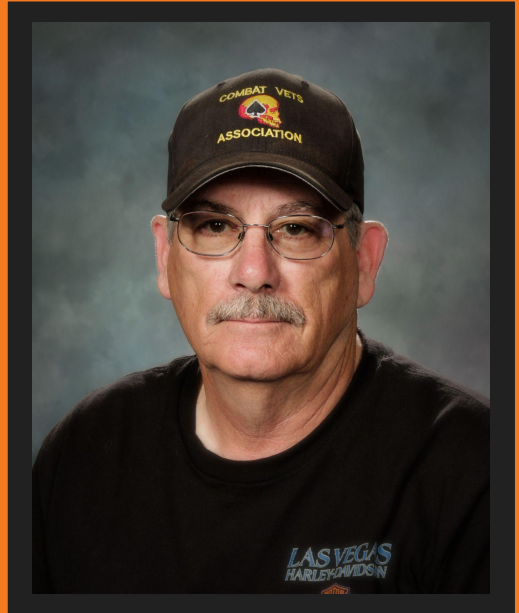
# Kyle Duffey

13 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Kyle worked as a bus driver with the Transportation Department.

Words to describe Kyle:

- A comedian
- Dedicated
- Persistent
- A mentor



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “Interacting with co-workers.”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “Enjoying life at my own pace.”

# Penny Beierman

16 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Penny worked as a paraeducator at Columbia Ridge.

Words to describe Penny

- Kind
- Compassionate
- Flexible
- Caring
- Heart of gold



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “All the hugs, high 5’s and smiles I get from our sweet little CR kids.”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “Finally getting time to practice more on my different musical instruments and doing some song writing.”

# Roger Cobb

33 years of service as a teacher, 8 years in Ephrata Schools.

Roger worked as a fourth grade teacher at Columbia Ridge.

Words to describe Roger:

- Happy
- Giving
- Fun
- Resourceful
- Optimistic



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “The support of my team and the bond with my fourth grade students.”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “Not having a designated schedule and the accomplishment of touching many lives.”

# Sandi Black

31 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Sandi worked as a Special Ed and General Ed Paraeducator and bus duty expert at Grant School and Secretary at Ephrata High School.

Words to describe Sandi:

- Kind
- Friendly
- Caring for others
- Loyal



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “I will definitely miss the staff and the students. I love helping people and will miss the opportunity to serve others. Sounds crazy, but I will also miss the fast paced environment of the high school.”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “I am looking forward to spending time with my family, traveling and sleeping in!”

## In Memoriam

# Maria Sanchez-Acheson

27 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Maria worked as a bilingual Paraeducator at Ephrata Middle School and Ephrata High School.

Words to describe Maria:

- Dedicated
- Hard Working
- Committed
- Caring for her students and their future



**We will miss Maria...** Maria emigrated to the United States at a young age. Despite raising three sons by herself, she made time to learn English, get her citizenship and devote herself to the ESL students at EMS and EHS. Maria passed away peacefully at home on April 7 with her family by her side. She is remembered as a wife, mother, mentor, teacher, friend and neighbor. Maria is survived by her husband Ray Acheson and her three sons Erick, Alex and Daniel.

# DJ Durham

18 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

DJ worked as a Custodian at Grant Elementary.

Words to describe DJ:

- Energetic
- Compassionate
- Decorator extraordinaire

DJ is always willing to pitch-in and help EVERYONE, no matter the amount of time or energy it takes!



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “There’s so many. All you guys as my family and the kids for sure.”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “Pretty much doing what I want to do, not being on a schedule, camping, going to my granddaughter’s games.”



# JoEllen Martin

16 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

JoEllen worked as a Paraeducator at Grant Elementary.

Words to describe JoEllen:

- Fun-loving
- Flexible
- Go-getter
- Helps ALL kids

We will miss her smile and how she greets ALL kids every morning!



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “The kids and how much they learn their kindergarten year... and the people!”

**Something I am looking forward to in my retirement...** “Chasing my husband.”

# KATHERINE (KATE) SCHMUCK

16 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Kate worked as a Paraeducator & Teacher at Grant Elementary School and Ephrata Middle School.

Words to describe Kate:

- Energetic
- Dedicated
- Passionate
- ALL about KIDS

Kate always wanted to make sure every student had a place!



**One thing I will miss the MOST...** “Seeing a kiddo’s eyes light up when they understand how to do something they’ve never understood how to do before.”

**Something I am looking forward to...** “A new challenge that will continue to allow me to make a difference but will also push me outside of my comfort zone.”

# Travis Eloff

30 years of service at Ephrata Schools.

Travis worked as a classroom teacher and Special Ed Director.

Words to describe Travis:

- Loving & Kind
- Committed to all students, but particularly students with special needs.
- Loyal to the Tiger Way... and the Steelers & Grizzlies



**One thing I will miss the MOST about Travis...** “I’ll miss our monthly conversations where I got to regularly hear his commitment and joy for our district, and more specifically, the kids and adults in his care. Travis took his job seriously, personally and professionally.”

**TIGER**



**STRONG**