



August 23, 2017



Building Beat

Upcoming ...

Friday, August 23:
No School

Tuesday, August 29:
Davison High School Open House, 6-7:30 p.m.

School Picture Day at Hahn Intermediate

Siple Elementary PTO Meeting, 6:30 p.m.
Media Center

Friday, September 1:
No School

Monday, September 4:
No School—Labor Day

Friday, September 8:
Siple Elementary Family Inflatable Night

District awards honorary diploma to would-be 1938 gradate

It was the fall of 1937 and Iris Marie Miles Weatherwax was looking forward to her senior year of high school. She had her senior picture taken and was ready to join her classmates at the M-15 school building now known as Central Elementary. But her school career came to an abrupt halt when the school administration learned she had married and was pregnant. Because of this, they said, she would not be allowed to return to school.

So while her classmates celebrated commencement the following spring, there was no pomp and circumstance for Iris. Until today.

Iris, who turns 98 in February, was awarded an honorary Davison Community Schools diploma from Superintendent Eric Lieske. Surrounded by family at the Grand Blanc assisted living center she calls home, Lieske presented the diploma and a graduation cap and gown to Iris.

“Can I cry now?” she asked, wiping away a tear, when her son, James Weatherwax, and niece, Paula Clarambeau, explained what was happening as school officials and local media began to congregate inside the living room.

Iris met her husband, Lloyd, after her friend, Edna, pointed him out to her while he was driving a team of horses near his family’s farm on Hubbard Road. The two met and the rest was history.

Lloyd went into the service and went off to fight the war while Iris tended to newborn James, who turns 80 next June. The couple would go on to have a total of four children, with Lloyd Jr. coming next, followed by Kay and Jerry. They grew up next to their grandparents and cousins on Hubbard Road in Richfield Township.

“The south side of the road was my grandfather’s farm and my dad and his two brothers lived all in a row,” James Weatherwax said.



Iris (nee Miles) Weatherwax thanks Superintendent Eric Lieske for presenting her with an honorary diploma.



Far left, Paula Clarambeau presents her aunt with graduation cupcakes to celebrate. Left, Iris and her husband, Lloyd, in the top picture. Lloyd passed away in 1973. Iris later married Art Brink and they were married 20 years before he passed away.

James and Paula remember when their grandmother and mother worked as cooks at the Richfield Center school

house. When their grandmother decided to retire, Iris began working full time at the school. She also worked for a brief time as a cook at Wheelock Memorial Hospital (formerly located in Goodrich) and for 19 years at Garrison Ross Insurance Agency. Iris, along with James, Lloyd Jr. and Jerry also worked at Miles Market (now Zip's) on M-15 near Bristol for their uncle Jack, who owned the store.

"She has been a wonderful mother," James said. He thanked his cousin Paula for contacting the school district after recently learning the story from her aunt about not being able to graduate.

"Clearly you can see education matters," said Superintendent **Eric Lieske**. "It has mattered all these years for Iris. It was an honor and privilege to be a part of today's celebration."

introducing... *Meet our newest "Kids First" teaching staff*

Davison Community Schools welcomes 17 new teachers for the 2017-18 school year. Read on to learn more about our newest members to the DCS Family.

- ♦ **Suzanne Binkley** is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education from Eastern Michigan University and a master's degree in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on reading specialty from Concordia University. "I want to give kids the best possible start toward a bright future," Suzanne said. "Investing in children in such a powerful way is an amazing gift." Suzanne is married to David, the Career Technical Director at Davison High School. They have two daughters, Charlotte and Lily. Suzanne enjoys reading, writing, cooking and gardening. She also enjoys many different kinds of music and almost always has music playing no matter what task she is working at.
- ♦ **Jennifer Carnell** is a first grade teacher at Central Elementary. A University of Michigan-Flint graduate, Jennifer is married to Nathan. They have two children, Claire, 5, and Matthew, 3. The family also includes dog, Ellie. "I always wanted to be a teacher," Jennifer said. "My mom was a teacher and I would always help her in her class. I love working with kids." Jennifer enjoys spending time with her family and friends, reading and playing volleyball and golf.



Suzanne



Jennifer

- ♦ **Elizabeth Green** is teaching music at Gates Elementary. She earned her K-12 vocal music education degree from Eastern Michigan University. "I want to inspire kids to be the next generation of music appreciators, listeners and makers," Elizabeth said. Elizabeth has two sisters and a brother and her parents have two cats and a dog. She loves paddle boarding, kayaking, swimming and playing volleyball. She also enjoys reading new books.
Elizabeth
- ♦ **Laurie Heath** is teaching the new health sciences class at Davison High School. She earned her Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Michigan - Flint and completed the Police Academy at Delta College. She also attended Mott Community College "just for fun." "I've taught people my entire career," Laurie said. "Hopefully this is a continuation of that." Laurie is married to Robb. They have a son, Tyler, and two puppies, Peanut Butter and Reese's. Laurie's father, Cliff, is a substitute teacher. Laurie enjoys watching her son play whichever sport he is participating in at the time, camping, biking and couponing.
Laurie
- ♦ **Rosana Tocco Hunsberger** is teaching Spanish at Davison High School. She has a bachelor's degree in K-12 Spanish from Oakland University and a master's in educational technology from Marygrove College. "I'm the oldest girl of 25 grandchildren and loved being the leader and teaching my cousins, so I decided to make it a career," Rosana said. "It was a great decision. I love my job." Rosana and her husband, Jason, have a daughter, Sloan, 5 months. The family also includes cat, Manuel. Rosana loves to travel and spend time outdoors. Summers are spent on the family's lake boating, tubing and kayaking.
Rosana
- ♦ **B. Allisoyn Johnson** is teaching Spanish at Davison Middle School. She earned her bachelor's degree from Northern Michigan University and her master's of arts degree from Wayne State University. "I wanted to share my passion for the Spanish language and have the opportunity to show others the great diversity within the Spanish speaking world," Allisoyn said. Allisoyn is married to Brenda Adamczyk and they are officially adopting their three children on August 25. They are Aniya, 10; DeAndre, 8; and Ernestine, 3. The family also includes two cats, Sovie and Hildegard. Allisoyn enjoys riding her bike, hiking, camping, crocheting and swimming with her children. Her family also enjoys playing games, traveling and hanging out at the beach.
Allisoyn
- ♦ **Debbie Lammers** is a guidance counselor at Davison High School. She attended both the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor and Dearborn and Eastern Michigan. Married to Rob for 20 years, Debbie has a son, Parker, 13, and daughter, Kate, 11. The family also includes three dogs and three cats. One of the dogs, Mac, is trying to become a therapy dog and Debbie hopes to put him to work at DCS. Debbie enjoys traveling, baking and cooking, reading, gardening and sewing.
Debbie
- ♦ **Eric Lott** is teaching business at Davison High School. He earned his bachelor's of arts degree from Bethel College and a master's of arts degree from Saginaw Valley State University. "I had influential teachers in my life and wanted to make a similar difference in the lives of others," Eric said. Eric is married to Lisa. They have two children, Bryce, 17, and Brady, 14. Eric enjoys spending time with family, boating, looking for great deals at thrift stores and garage sales.
Eric

- ◆ **Robin Odglen** is teaching music at Siple Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree in music education and elementary education from Spring Arbor University and a master of arts degree in music education from Boston University. "I want to build self-esteem and confidence in my students and inspire them to become lifelong learners," Robin said. "I want my students to feel joy and pride as they engage the music inside of them and all around them." Robin and her husband, Tony, have two children: Jake, 10, and Emily, 5. Ruby the dog and Cody the cat are also members of the family. Robin loves camping with her family and friends each summer. She also loves attending and leading worship for her church, Russellville Wesleyan.
- ◆ **Stephanie Owens** is teaching fifth grade at Hahn Intermediate. She earned her bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in math and science from Saginaw Valley State University. She is currently working on obtaining her master's degree in K-12 learning from SVSU. "I became a teacher because I have a love for children and learning," Stephanie said. "I am also very passionate about making a difference in the lives of children." Stephanie is married to Nathan, who teaches sixth grade in Flushing. They have a daughter, Olivia, 8, and twin boys, Kaden and Kameron, ages 5. Stephanie loves spending time with her family, camping and baking cupcakes.
- ◆ **Julie Simonsen** is the new counselor at Siple Elementary. She has a bachelor of arts degree in elementary education from Northern Michigan University and two master's degrees—one in counseling and the other in educational technology—from Central Michigan University. "I've always wanted to help children see their potential," Julie said. Julie and her husband, Dave, have been married for 16 years. They have two daughters: Rebecca, 9, and Audrey, 8. She enjoys running, reading and serving at her church.
- ◆ **Stephanie Weidenhammer** is teaching kindergarten at Thomson Elementary. She earned her elementary education degree with an early childhood endorsement from the University of Michigan-Flint. "I had a few very influential teachers during my education who made my experience a positive one," Stephanie said. "I enjoy learning myself and have come to enjoy watching students learn as well." Stephanie is married to Jeff and they have two sons, Alex and Jacob. She enjoys spending time with family, reading and traveling.
- ◆ **Gabriel Whiteley** is teaching sixth grade at Hahn Intermediate. He attended Oakland University. "I became a teacher to help students succeed and facilitate a positive environment for education," he said. Gabriel and his girlfriend of five years share two dogs—a lab named Remi and a rat terrier named Winnie. Gabriel enjoys mountain biking, woodworking, hunting, hiking and camping.



Robin



Stephanie



Julie



Stephanie



Gabriel

We love to hear from our staff, students and alums! If you have a story or accomplishment to share, or would like to let us know what you are doing since graduation, please email us at: medwards@davisonschools.org



It was an extra memorable first day of school thanks to the solar eclipse. All students and staff members were provided with a pair of NASA-approved solar eclipse glasses in order to view the afternoon event. Thanks to the DEF for donating \$2,500 to offset costs of purchasing the special specs!





Left, Thomson Elementary Teacher Mrs. Emily Williams shows one of her new Teddy Thomson kindergarten students how to select if they are eating cold or hot lunch for the day. Above, there is always a cool art project taking place in Mrs. Sara Harris' preschool class at the Cardinal's Nest, even on the first day of school! Below, "It's a masterpiece!" exclaims Thomson Elementary Teacher Mrs. Lori O'Brien when one of her students presents her finished work.

