

North Branch Area Schools “Person of the Week”

Welcome to our NBAS Person of the Week! Each week, we highlight a member of our incredible team to showcase their unique contributions and share a bit about their journey. This week, we’re shining the spotlight on Deborah Vallie, a Literacy Paraprofessional at Ruth Fox Middle School.

We recognize the important role Deborah plays at RFMS in supporting our students' success. We truly appreciate her commitment to helping create an inclusive and supportive learning environment. Deborah's tireless support, patience, and positive energy make a world of difference in our students' lives. We are so lucky to have her on our team!

Deborah's Story:



My career in education began unexpectedly. I volunteered at Fraser Public Schools where our children attended the same elementary school as me and my brothers. In 1993 my volunteer position managing the library became a full-time paid position which I initially turned down, but the principal wouldn't take no for an answer. In 1997 we moved to the country. Life north of I-69 was a big change for this city girl. One of my accomplishments was overcoming fear with faith and relocating to the country. I took a position at NBAS as a lunchroom monitor, 2.5 hours, to stay close to our children and help them adapt to our new environment. God had a plan. He knew

that tucked away in the vast country I originally feared was a small, tight knit community filled with caring individuals that rally around each other for the good, bad and ugly. My husband Kevin and I are blessed with a four-generation family, three children, six grandchildren and three great grandchildren. They are all our pride and joy. It has truly been a blessing for our family to grow up in a loving community that accepted transplants; Jennie (Lapeer West 1999), Kevin (NBAS 2004), Nicole (NBAS 2007) and granddaughter Kristen (Quest 2015).

I am humbled and honored to receive this nomination. It has been a privilege working at NBAS for the last 28 years, 25 of them a Literacy Paraprofessional at Ruth Fox. I have the utmost respect for the remarkable staff of past and present. I benefit from their wisdom and skills daily. They have served as mentors for my professional development. I have also been at the receiving end of their generosity and tireless support through difficult times. I have been blessed to be a part of Ruth Fox. It honestly is the Best

School.

It's the kiddos that keep me coming back. Middle school can be messy, just like life. It is rewarding to guide students to discover their potential, equip them with strategies to navigate through tough assignments, witness them flourish as learners and become someone greater than themselves.

I started working in the school because it fit well with my role as a mom, and I stayed because of the students. My love for our children has grown into a lasting passion for education.

Here is what some of her co-workers had to say...

- Deb goes above and beyond in everything she does. She works with students, helps with old fashioned family Christmas, checks in on coworkers when they have been ill. She does all this while she has hardships herself.
- Deb always walks around the building with a smile and makes an effort to make every staff and student feel important. Her kindness and support shows through in her work with students which helps them learn and grow each day.
- Deb Vallie is a wonderful person to work with. She is always, cheerfully willing to help others - students AND teachers. She is diligent and gets things done. She has helped prepare for events like festivals and the Old Fashioned Family Christmas. She is very organized and efficient. When you see Deb she is always on a mission, doing a project for someone. She has a good sense of just what needs to be done, and she does it. She is kind and patient with everyone. You can find her with small groups of students helping them with their classwork. It is a pleasure to be around Deb Vallie.
- Debbie Vallie would have been an amazing teacher. Debbie is a woman of many talents. She can teach a lesson, create an amazing showcase, learn Spanish to help a child, perform on the spot in an assembly, organize anything, design a poster, be a substitute teacher for any subject, you name it, Debbie can make it happen. One of the most amazing qualities Debbie has is her ability to build strong relationships with teachers, students, administrators, and colleagues. Debbie Vallie is a big piece that fits perfectly into the Ruth Fox puzzle.

Deborah's dedication to our staff and students goes above and beyond. Thank you for being such a vital part of our school community. Please join us in celebrating her well-deserved recognition!