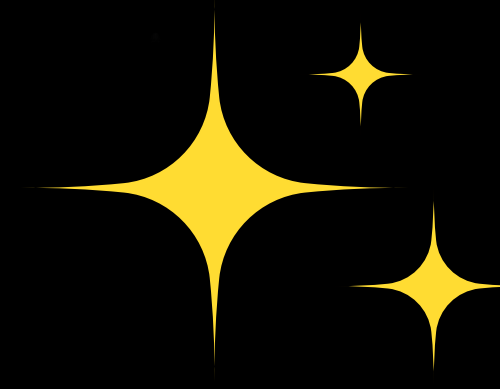


Together We
Shine



Retirees 2024-2025



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131



RHONDA BASS



One of my fondest memories in District 131 was when Simmons started the incentive trips to Washington D.C., Springfield, and Chicago.

Being able to attend a couple of the trips to Washington D.C., Springfield, and Wisconsin Dells with the students will always hold a special place in my heart.

Also, taking the students to the Bulls game, motivational speaker Bob Love, NASCAR driver Aric Almirola coming to the school with his race car, and my all time favorite, Dick's Donuts.

Position: Secretary - Principal Middle School
Years in District: 22

WILLIAM L. BRYANT



One of my fondest memories is the establishment of Prom Dreams and the development of a fitness-based APE curriculum.

Position: Physical Education Teacher

Years in District: 19

DEANNE S. COOPER



Position: Special Education Resource Teacher

Years in District: 25

RICARDO DELGADO



The satisfaction of being involved in many students' lives and seeing them graduate is one of my fondest memories.

Position: Pupil Personnel Assistant
Years in District: 16

JACQUELINE ELLIOTT



One of my fondest memories is when I was teaching at Johnson, School Board Members and donors came to see the students working on iPads to see if it should be purchased for the whole district.

The students answered the questions and told the adults what they were learning and were able to answer questions about what they had learned.

Position: Dual Language (English) 4th Grade Teacher

Years in District: 21

GLADYS G. ESCALANTE



Throughout my career, I have had the privilege of working in several schools within the district. Each location presented unique experiences and challenges, which helped me grow as an educator.

I am incredibly proud to be an East Aurora teacher.

The foundation East Aurora School District 131 provided has shaped my approach to teaching and instilled in me the values I strive to pass on to my students.

It has been a true joy to be part of their growth.

Position: Dual Language (Spanish) Kindergarten Teacher

Years in District: 25



JULIE A. GERVAIS



My heart-warming memories are seeing students years later and hearing how much it meant to them to have art with me.

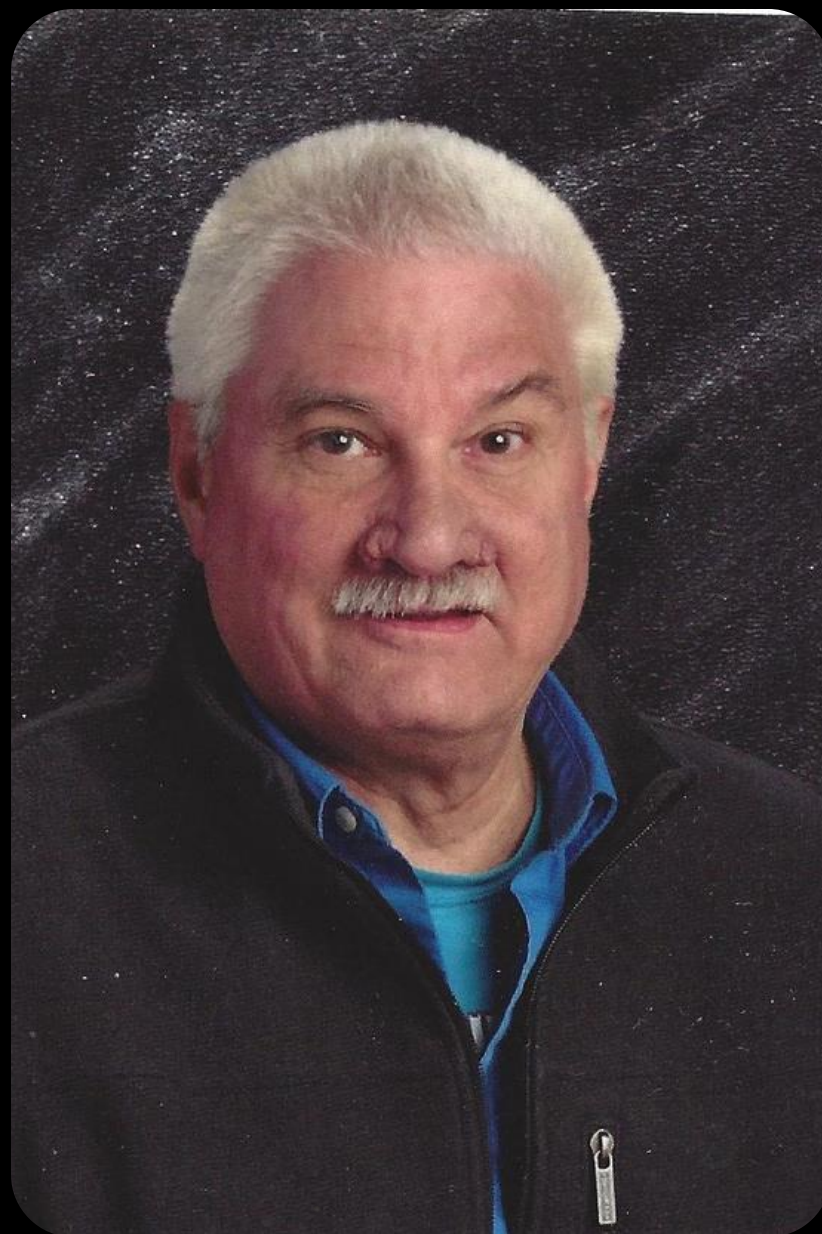
I remember one time I was setting up for a Fine Arts Festival at the high school, and a former student from Waldo rushed up to me and picked me up off the ground in a giant bear hug!

I'm currently teaching art at East Aurora Extension Campus, it has been profoundly moving to see our students overcome serious hardships, develop self-confidence, and become high school graduates with goals for the future.

In art class and life, I keep reminding our students to trust the process and never to give up!

Position: Art Teacher - Secondary
Years in District: 20

STEPHEN V. HARREN



Some of my fondest memories that I can recall are when kids come back to visit after they have completed college, and they have a good job.

Position: Mathematics Teacher
Years in District: 18

LUCY A. HAWKE



15 years ago, as a new reading interventionist teaching Read 180, I had a 5th-grade student for whom I was teaching about closed syllables.

She was so excited when she understood the rules of reading a closed syllable and asked me, "Why hasn't anyone helped me understand this before?" She worked so hard and grew 2 1/2 reading levels that year. We were both thrilled by her growth.

Working with the students and staff at Hermes Elementary will hold my greatest memories, most especially the students and their families.

The multiple and varied activities I have been involved with over the years include: the Outdoor Adventure Club with the Fox Valley Park District, helping with the Drama, Go Green Club with Mrs. Wrigglesworth, and the Garden Club with Mrs. Turner.

Position: Reading Interventionist
Years in District: 14

ANA L. JUSINO



So many fond memories to mention... I always enjoyed the speech groups with the young students, lunch celebrations at O'Donnell and monthly birthday celebrations at Bardwell.

So many friendships were made and will be cherished forever.

I am grateful to have worked with so many dedicated professionals over these 14 1/2 years at East Aurora School District 131. Thank you all!

Position: Special Education Interpreter

Years in District: 14

SANDRA M. KATULA



Position: Science Teacher

Years in District: 12

MARY L. LLAMAS



My fondest memories are of the relationships that I formed with parents throughout the years.

We not only became friends with time, but we became family!

Position: Parent Liaison
Years in District: 20

LUZ N. LOPEZ BONILLA



My fondest memory of working at O'Donnell and Brady was always being able to provide support in the classroom when needed.

Position: Bilingual Assistant

Years in District: 19

SONIA E. MAGAÑA



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131

I enjoy being able to help students and their families with any needs and being part of the problem-solving process.

Position: Secretary - Transportation
Years in District: 26

VERONICA MARAVILLA



My fondest memory is seeing the students happy at school, and their priceless smiles

Position: Bilingual Teacher Assistant

Years in District: 25

SUSAN M. MCCARRON



I have so many monumental memories in my tenure in District 131. Very difficult to narrow it down! With that being said, there has been a recurring theme to my memories: how amazing and special our children are.

I loved taking our children on field trips. I would take my AP students yearly to Portfolio Day (national event) at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC – my alma mater).

At the end of receptions, where all students from around the country would converse and eat after lectures, tours, and workshops, I was approached by numerous parents at these events to tell me how kind, thoughtful, and polite my kids were. They would hold doors, elevators, and make sure everyone in their groups was safe. I was a proud mama... my children were great artists and people!

Position: Art Teacher
Years in District: 21

LESLY L. MERLO



Being in the district for 20 years, I have made many memories that will be in my heart forever, but singing the national anthem at Las Posadas, was an honor and a remarkable moment.

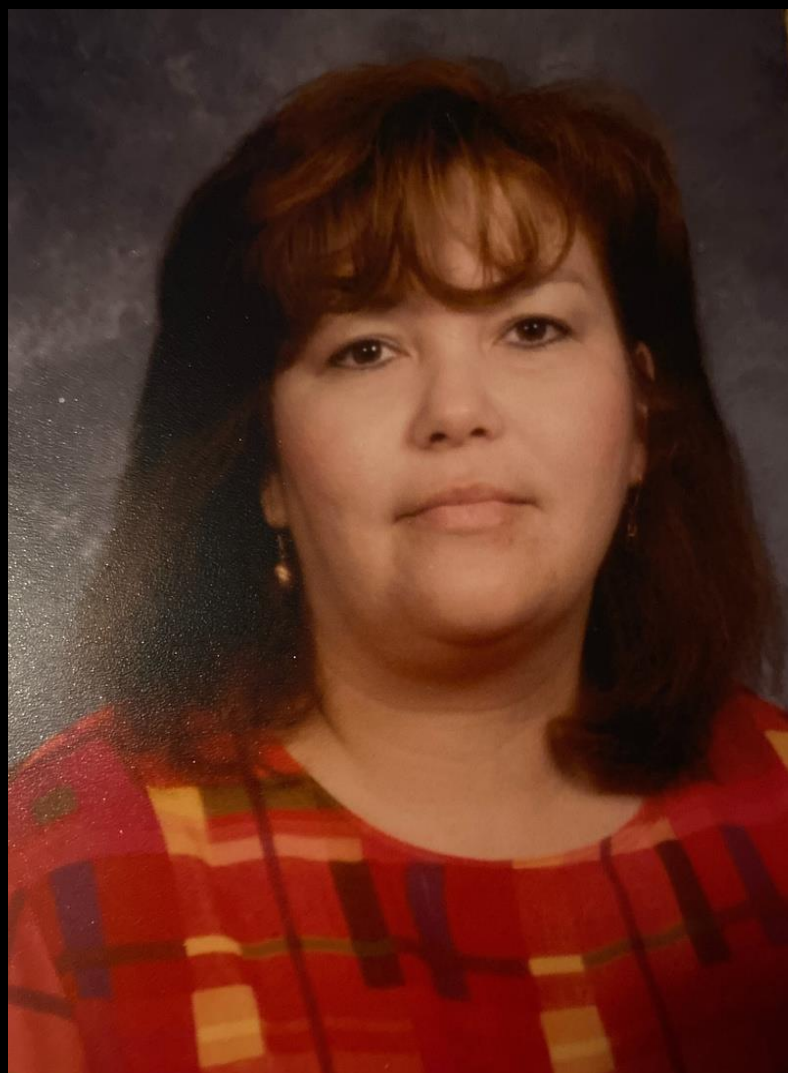
Position: Parent Liaison
Years in District: 20

PAMELA E. MILLER



Position: Health Assistant
Years in District: 19

MARIBEL MIRANDA



One of my memories is when on one of my birthdays, I entered the classroom and the kids were there with the lights off, and they sang me Las Mañanitas.

Position: Bilingual Assistant
Years in District: 25

MARY J. NIELS



One of my fondest memories is working Summer School with general education students.

Position: Special Education Resource Teacher

Years in District: 24

MECHELLE L. PATTERSON



Some of my fondest memories are watching students successfully promote from Simmons and walk the stage for graduation at the high school; providing yearly 6th, 7th, and 8th grade student incentive trips to Washington D.C. and Springfield as well as the Razzle Dazzle performances.

Position: Middle School Principal
Years in District: 25

GUILLERMO E. PEDRONI



One of my fondest memories is seeing my students become professionals over the years and having my former students' children in class.

Position: Foreign Language - Spanish Teacher

Years in District: 33

TIBISAY PEREZ-CANSINO



Position: Dual Language (Spanish) Kindergarten Teacher
Years in District: 18

CATHERINE E. PIEHL



One of my fondest memories is working with amazing staff members who care so much about our students. The MTSS team and our Special Education Team were always uplifting, hard-working, and supportive.

I loved working at Rollins and being a school social worker!

Position: Social Worker

Years in District: 10

JERRY L. POQUETTE



My fondest memory is going to work for the school district that I graduated from.

Position: Fireperson
Years in District: 31

ROSAURA S. RAMIREZ



I have many great memories while employed
for East Aurora School District 131.
A big thanks to everyone I met all these years.

Position: Special Education Interpreter

Years in District: 11

MARIA DE LOS REYES ROCHA DELGADILLO



I have too many memories from the past 20 years working at East Aurora School District 131, however, the most memorable moments were being able to teach and help students, as this job has been the most rewarding career I have had.

Position: Bilingual Preschool Assistant

Years in District: 20

MARCELA E. RODRIGUEZ



Some of my fondest memories are being able to work in the community that I am a part of, and all of the students and teachers I have worked with in my 26 years of service in East Aurora School District 131.

Position: Bilingual Assistant
Years in District: 27

MARIA L. ROJAS



I have many good memories from my last 30 years working at Hermes, which makes it difficult to choose just one.

I still remember the day when I came in for my interview. I felt very welcome. Hermes has always been a second home to me; I have been so blessed working here with many amazing people throughout the years.

Also, one of my greatest memories is seeing my children attend Hermes.

Position: Clerical Assistant - Attendance

Years in District: 30

DENNIS L. SROKA



My fondest memory is the 100th Anniversary of Waldo Middle School; Mrs. Elsie Ruth Armbruster Dieterich Wagner (class of 1930) came for the event and I escorted her around.

*Position: Custodian
Years in District: 14*

DIANNE M. THOMAS



EAST AURORA
SCHOOL DISTRICT 131



My fondest memory is the friendships
with colleagues that continue into
retirement.

Position: Secretary - Case Management Monitor
Years in District: 27

TERESA G. VARNER



What I have enjoyed the most over the past 11 years is the time I have been able to sit and talk with the students, getting to know them on a personal level beyond just being their nurse.

Position: Health Assistant - LPN

Years in District: 11

GREGORY R. VARNEY



Position: Driver's Education Teacher
Years in District: 23



DON A. WILLIAMS



My years of growing up on the East Side, attending Hermes Elementary, Simmons Jr. High, and finally graduating from East High School in 1976 have been a fabulous journey.

I have enjoyed the years of collegiality, the school experiences, the good and difficult times that come with being a dedicated teacher.

As a proud Tomcat, I will cherish the years of commitment I have made to East Aurora School District 131.

Once a Tomcat, always a Tomcat!

Position: Social Studies Teacher

Years in District: 39

Thank you for your
dedication and
commitment to East
Aurora School District 131

TOMCATS



Once a Tomcat,
Always a Tomcat!