

Flora CUSD #35 Newsletter

Children are our most precious possession.

November 2022

David Koontz-Retired Teacher Hall of Fame

I guess one could say that David Koontz loves music. He received his first cornet, which he still has, as a gift from his father, as he wanted to start in the school band. David enjoyed being in the band from the start. His wife, Trudy likes to tell the story that on their first date, he left her in the stands so he could go play in the band. David graduated from Flora Township High School in 1967. Band was and continues to be a huge part of his life, even dotting BAND 101 on his license plates.

David served in the US Army from 1970-1972. His job was to protect the Panama Canal Zone during the Vietnam War. Before being drafted, he married his sweetheart, Trudy Hamilton on a snowy Thanksgiving Day in 1969. He left the Army in 1972 to help his father with his business, Koontz Electric. He received his bachelor's degree in Music Education from Eastern Illinois University and later received his Master's Degree from EIU in School Counseling.

David's first teaching job was at Noble Schools in 1974 where he taught elementary band and his yearly salary was \$7500. Times have changed a lot since then. He went on to become the grade school band teacher for Flora CUSD #35, traveling between McEndree, Lincoln, Washington, and Xenia schools. He enjoyed his students and may not remember their name after all these years, but he will remember what instrument they played. In 1987 he began teaching at Flora Jr. High and had an excellent program with the Jr. Varsity and Varsity Bands. He retired from the Jr. High in 2008. However, that didn't stop him from continuing in the band programs in Flora through mentoring new teachers, co-teaching with Harry Penry, leading the Spring Concert after Mrs. Comb's baby was born, and so much more. After 49 years in the band program, he decided to finally retire. In his tenure as a band director, he marched the yearly Louisville Fall Harvest Parade, Flora Halloween Parade, Flora Veteran's Day Parade, directed countless ball games, and has taken 100s of students to solo and band ensemble, many times receiving 1st place. He also played with the FHS band on many Friday nights alongside his children, Michelle, Bret, and Kari - who are also all trumpet players.

A special tribute that he taught many trumpet players throughout the years is taps. He worked with the American Legion to have "buglers" for the funerals of local veterans. He played taps many times standing next to the American Legion Veterans while his children or a student would play the "echo". It is a beautiful tribute that cannot be matched with a taped recording.

David's legacy of music has touched many lives. He has had the opportunity to teach his children as well as many nieces, nephews, his son-in-law, and children from his church family. He is an encourager and is always there to offer a pat on the back to any of the band students & teacher after a performance. He now enjoys watching his grandchildren perform in the band, as 3rd generation trumpet players. He continues to share his love of music with the children in the nursery at First Christian Church where he sings 'Jesus Loves Me', 'Jesus Loves the Little Children' and 'Zacchaeus' on a weekly basis.







School Bus Driver Appreciation

For many students, school bus drivers often are the first school staff members they see each day. In addition to ensuring safe travel to and from school, bus drivers set the tone for the day, share encouraging words, and provide consistent and positive connections with our students. October 17th-21st was National School Bus Safety Week, and we share our gratitude with this group of professionals for all they do for students, families and communities. Thank You!!

Principal Appreciation

Courageous leadership by our principals is essential to effectively educating students and to work to provide resources and support. October was principal appreciation month and we are blessed to have principals that live up to the challenge. Principal appreciation month provides us an opportunity to publicly recognize the work, commitment, and importance of principals, assistant principals, and deans throughout the state. Thank you to our principals, assistant principals, and deans for all you do and for your work and leadership!!

Thank You to Our School Board Members

It is time to thank our school board members for their hard work and dedication. On November 15th, which is School Board Members Day, join with others throughout the district and state to thank the men and women who provide service to our schools as school board members.

School board members routinely make personal sacrifices and their role in assuring local control over our public schools is often forgotten. School Board members often times face criticism even though the decisions that went into a given decision are not known. The school board works closely with parents, educators, and community members to help create the educational vision for our students and our schools. It assists in formulating goals, defining results, and setting the course for our students' educational program.

Make a special effort to tell each school board member his or her hard work is noticed and very much appreciated!!

District Veterans' Day Program- We invite any veteran and their families to breakfast and fellowship on the morning of November 10th at 8:15 a.m. to the FHS Commons for breakfast. Following the breakfast, there will be a program attended by all students in the district at 9:15 in Conley Gymnasium. It is our intention to honor those who have risked their lives serving in military conflicts around the globe.

R.S.V.P.- Please call 662-2412 to let us know how many will be attending with you so proper arrangements can be made.

Important Upcoming Dates:

November 2nd-Curriculum Advisory Committee Meeting-Unit Office-2:30 p.m.

November 3rd-Radiothon Sponsored by Flora Academic Foundation-6:00 p.m-9:30 p.m.

November 8th-Election Day-No School

November 10th-District Veteran's Day Breakfast/Program-8:15-FHS

November 11th-Veteran's Day-No School

November 17th-FHJHS/Elementary School Picture Retakes

November 21st-Board of Education Meeting-5:30 p.m.

November 23rd-No School

November 24th-Thanksgiving Day-No School

November 25th-Day after Thanksgiving-No School