

Flora CUSD #35



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



**A good teacher can inspire hope,
ignite the imagination, and instill
a love of learning.**

Brad Henry



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



I touch the future. I teach.

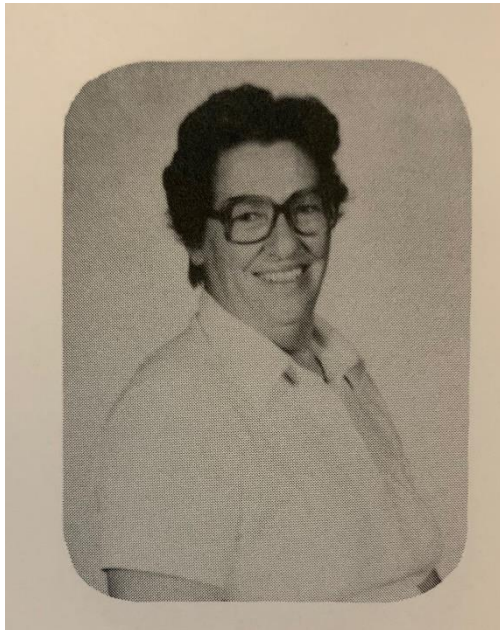
Christa McAuliffe



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Inaugural Member-Peg Ripperdan



- Taught Physical Education in Flora from 1969-1984
- Coached tennis
- Motivator and positive role model
- Groundbreaking in area of girls' athletics
- Good natured and had high expectations for her students.



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Harry Penry



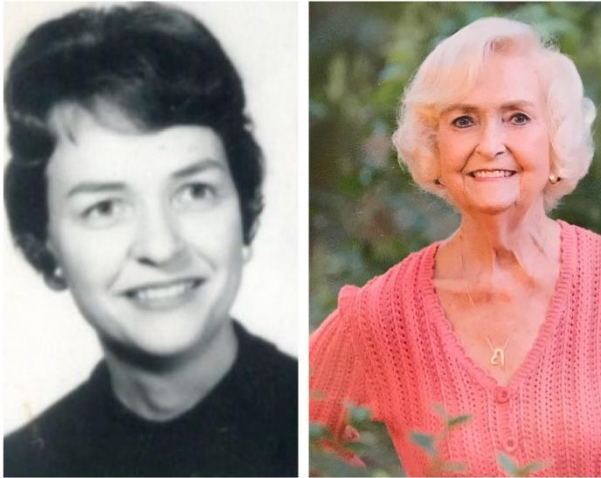
- Instrumental/Vocal music instructor at Flora from 1969-1993
- High School principal-1993-1999
- Part-time band director at Flora from 2012-2020
- Energetic, Driven, Passionate about music and music education
- Flora's own Mr. Holland of "Mr. Holland's Opus"



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Lucy Burgess



- 1963-Started teaching in district as half Kindergarten and half day Girls PE/Health at junior high
- Taught Home Ec and Co-Op for 10 years at high school
- Taught McEndree kindergarten for 10 years
- Served as part-time Co-op coordinator
- Worked in district for 41 years
- Described by one of her former students as “the most gentle and loving teacher I have ever had in my entire life. She taught me how to be a better person. There are not enough kind or beautiful words to describe Mrs. B and her love of her students.”



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Jim Baird

- Taught from 1967-2000
- Taught Political Science, Sociology, US History, Geography, Social Problems, and “isms:
- Served as high school musical photographer for several years.
- Served as head girls’ tennis coach from 1982-1984 with his 1982 team capturing the IHSA Sectional Title. Also mentored several aspiring players for the FROG Island Tennis Club.



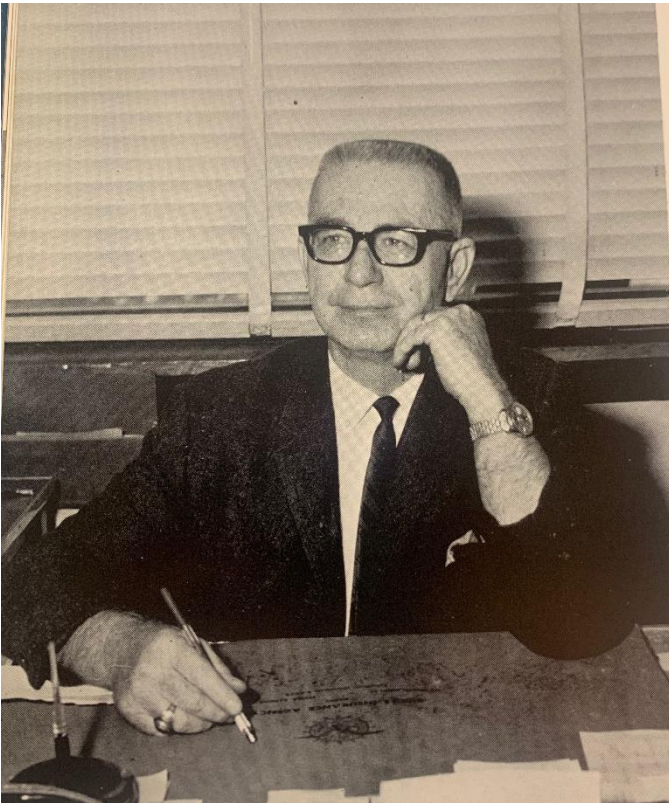
Mr. Jim Baird



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Floyd C Smith



- Served as principal of Flora High School for 22 years, retiring in May 1973.
- The Learning Center at FHS is named in his honor.
- Created a curriculum at FHS that became the envy of schools in southern Illinois.
- Was the rare administrator who taught classes while serving as the educational leader of the high school district.



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Kay Spitzner

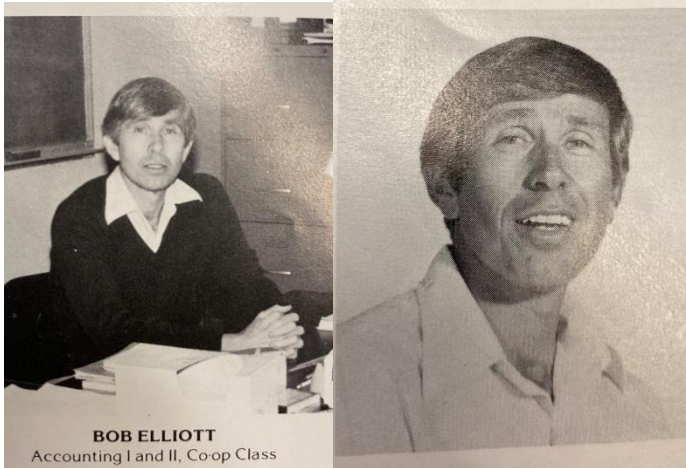
- Taught in the district from 1959-1982.
- Taught PE her first year and was hired the next year to teach math-Algebra I and II and Senior Math.
- Sponsored Math Club
- Usually took tickets during ballgames while knitting which was one of her favorite pastimes.



Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Bob Elliott



BOB ELLIOTT
Accounting I and II, Coop Class

- Taught in the district from 1968-1999.
- Taught business and accounting classes at Flora High School
- Remembered by his former students for his kindness, selflessness, and generosity
- Served in the U.S. Army as a military policeman stationed in Germany during the Viet Nam Conflict.



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Jennifer Hettiger

- Taught/Worked in the district during 1975-1976 school year and 1982-2012
- Taught Kindergarten-3rd Grade Special Education for 18 years
- Was District Special Education Coordinator from 2000-2012
- Served on Board of Clay County Rehabilitation and Clay County Industries
- Secretary of Flora Academic Foundation





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Joe McCoy



- Served in the district since the 1970s teaching Speech, Drama, Literature, and English
- Directed school plays, assisted with musicals, and sponsored the school newspaper
- Retired in 2004/Continued to work as a part-time teacher/Has served on the school board and is the current School Board President
- Avid golfer and Packers fan
- Loves volunteering/Reading to elementary students





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Nancy Stringer

- Taught for 32 years teaching kindergarten, first, and second grades.
- Retired in 2002
- Huge supporter of Flora sports and school district
- Has served on FAF, American Cancer Society Board, and Health Department Mentoring Program





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Jill Fehrenbacher

- Began teaching in the Flora School District in 1978
- Taught kindergarten, first, and second grades
- Retired in 2007
- Former member of FAF and serves as a volunteer at the Clay County Food Pantry, active at St. Stephens Church , and a member of the Flora Garden Club





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Les Odell

- Taught at FHS for 33 years-Retiring in 2002
- Coached track, wrestling, and football
- Enjoyed tennis, running, slow pitch softball, mushroom hunting, gardening, and golfing
- Excellent painting and carpentry skills-impacted community through building of decks, ramps, upgrades, and additions





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



David Koontz

- Began teaching at Noble in 1974.
- At Flora, taught grade school band then moved to Flora Jr. High band in 1987
- After 49 years in the band program, officially retired
- His legacy of music has touched many lives!!





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Mary Beth Lancaster



- Began as speech pathologist in Clay County in 1975.
- Started in Flora district in 1992 and retired from the district in 2012.
- Member of Flora Academic Foundation
- Made a career out of teaching others to communicate.
- Devoted her time and was dedicated to serving and teaching students in the Flora school district.





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Jene Brentlinger

- Taught in district from 1974 to 2007
- Described by former students and colleagues that worked with her as loving, caring, supportive, and enthusiastic
- Has a heart of gold and always went above and beyond to support her students





Retired Teacher Hall of Fame



Ellen Erwin

- Dedicated teacher at McEndree Elementary
- Principal at Xenia Grade School
- Had a passion for education and made a difference in the lives of the students and staff she worked with.
- Loved her kids and made learning fun for the students and teachers she worked with!!

