

Deb Englund - Special Education



What is the greatest change in teaching and classrooms since you entered this profession?

Kids are different today. They learn differently because of the changes in our society due to the information age. Teachers need to use multi-modal teaching methods to engage them. Allowing kids to express their ideas in various ways is different too and is helpful to many children. Also, there are new ways to approach the same subject matter in novel ways that seem to reach all students more effectively. For instance, we are using The Daily Five to teach reading in our school. The concepts they are learning are the same, but they are learned differently. Finally, Common Core is drastically changing the way we teach. This is truly in the infancy stage as I leave teaching, but I do see that it has many benefits that will help children to be thinkers and problem solvers for life.

Memories:

Yesterday my principal announced that my retirement party would be taking place after school. I had not told the kids yet that I was retiring. Once they heard the news I got so many hugs from the students. They expressed why I should not leave them. It was very sweet!

Future plans:

I want to have an active life, playing golf, gardening, reading, biking, sewing/crafting and going to my health club on a regular basis. I look forward to traveling when it is less crowded. I want to see more of the United States and hopefully get back to Europe once. Most importantly, I want more family time with my husband, children, and grandchildren. I know I will never be bored! I pray for health and a long life to enjoy all these wonderful things and people!

Marge Guerrero - Second Grade



What is the greatest change in teaching and classrooms since you entered this profession?

The biggest change I have experienced is with technology in the classroom. I started with blackboards, which changed to whiteboards, and now we have SmartBoards! Class movies were rented days in advance and were on film reels. I had to sign up for a special time to use the film projector! Only a few of my students had computers in their homes at the time the district brought computers into the classrooms. Now students have multiple devices that didn't exist when I began teaching, and they are often more knowledgeable about them than I am!

Memories:

After so many years, there are several significant memories that I will always treasure, and it is difficult to choose just one. Many years ago, an outstanding former teacher in our district, AnnDee Nimmer, shared with me her idea of making a movie of special classroom moments, and creating a DVD for each student as an end of the year gift. Thanks to AnnDee, I have several years of memories stored on DVD and in my heart.

Future plans:

My first priority as I retire is to spend a lot more time with my family, especially my grandchildren. I also plan to travel, volunteer, and just take time to see what happens!

Best wishes to our staff who are retiring this year.

Pat Taphorn - Kindergarten



What is the greatest change in teaching and classrooms since you entered this profession?

The biggest change was the move to all day Kindergarten. There were many more academic expectations and demands put on children 5 years of age. One of the greatest advantages of full day Kindergarten was I got to know the children and their learning styles in greater depth and could appreciate even more the person they became as the year progressed.

Memories:

There are so many great memories that it is hard to narrow it down to one or two to mention here. I have had great colleagues and administrators to work with, wonderful children to teach and also to learn from, and supportive parents that have often become friends. Those are the things I will remember most!

Future plans:

I want to spend time with my family and my friends. I will be glad to have the opportunity to read, read, read! Reading is my favorite thing to do. I want to garden a bit more, spend time at the lake – to just be outside as much as possible!

“True teachers are those who use themselves as bridges over which they invite their students to cross, then having facilitated their crossing, joyfully collapse, encouraging them to create bridges of their own.” – Nikos Kazantzakis

