

**WVCSD EdTalk: July 5, 2023**  
**Dr. David Leach, Superintendent of Schools**

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The essence of any school district rests in the quality of its people. During the first week of June, we honored 22 exceptional district professionals who have exhibited remarkable devotion to Warwick students, families and our community.

We are all filled with deep gratitude and admiration for their commitment to guide, assist and inspire generations of eager minds. Their impact on the future testifies to the power of education and to those who serve students. As these retirees embark on upcoming adventures, I offer our sincere thanks and best wishes.

Join us in recognizing the following people who embody the heart and spirit of Warwick Valley Central School District.

**Jane Daly, 12.5 years**

As the Warwick Valley High School principal's secretary for nine years, Jane was an amiable and effective manager of the high school office. She was known by students as the coordinator of senior class graduation activities.

**Mary Dolan, 19 years**

Mary made a difference in the lives of students from first to fifth grade, holding them to high standards while prioritizing their well-being. Her presence and the profound positive impact she has had on so many students will be missed. Mary exemplifies what it means to be a high-quality teacher.

**Creslyn Driscoll, 15 years**

Thank you to a school nurse who cared for patients at Pine Island and Sanfordville. She provided exceptional care to our students and played a critical role in reopening our schools during the pandemic.

**Herman Eurich, 19+ years**

Herman is the reason Warwick's sports fields are always groomed! A WVHS grad himself, he returned to his alma mater driven by passion for his work. He became an invaluable asset to the school.

**Lena Fahringer, 30 years**

Lena always tailored her teaching methods to meet each student's unique needs and diverse learning styles. Her kindness, patience, and unwavering dedication to excellence set her apart as an outstanding educator. Her presence will be deeply missed by colleagues and students.

**Gia Gravelle, 31 years**

Gia taught math at Warwick Valley Middle School, Park Avenue and WVHS. She coached JV Football and Cheer, organized outdoor education trips to Ashokan, and pioneered the Girls' Golf team in 2003. A dedicated educator and student advocate, her colleagues and friends will

deeply miss her presence and contributions.

**Janice Graven, 23 years**

Janice dedicated her career to supporting her students' needs and providing them with insightful, thought-provoking lessons. In her quiet and gentle way, she pushed them to expand their horizons by becoming global citizens. She will be missed by her students and colleagues alike.

**Donna Hagedorn, 7 years**

Donna treated every student on her bus as if they were extended family members. The Transportation Department receives numerous calls, annually, from parents requesting "Ms. Donna" as their child's bus driver for the following year.

**Mary Kalmanowitz, 11 years**

Our District Data Analyst and a true team player, Mary worked with every building, every teacher, and every administrator in the district during her time in Warwick. She had unwavering dedication, a meticulous nature and exemplary organizational skills.

**Augie Malillo, 16 years**

Augie always prioritized student safety aboard his bus. He gained immense popularity among students and their parents by familiarizing himself with them and attending to their individual needs. His good-natured sense of humor endeared him to everyone, and he will be deeply missed.

**Terry McLoughlin, 13 years**

High School art teacher and sole yearbook advisor, Terry ingrained in her students the significance of visual storytelling, effective budgeting, adept project management, and meeting strict deadlines. She worked tirelessly to ensure the yearbook captured every aspect of student life at WVHS (even amidst pandemic constraints), and made an indelible impact that will remain even as she will be deeply missed by students and colleagues.

**Jean McPherson, 10 years**

An exceptional instructional aide who left an indelible and profound impression on those she worked with. Her unwavering commitment to making every student feel special and valued testifies to her exceptional qualities as an empathetic and nurturing educator.

**Lorraine Negron, 25 years**

Lorraine brought exceptional kindness and an unwavering willingness to help others in her Warwick career. This began in food service and ended up as Park Avenue library monitor. She was never seen without a warm smile on her face, and her kind energy will be greatly missed.

**Danielle Nicoletti, 15 years**

This esteemed special education teacher assumed a myriad of responsibilities during her time in Warwick. She always exemplified exceptional dedication to her students. She has had an immeasurable impact on countless lives through her remarkable passion and tireless efforts.

**Joyce Paterno, 32+ years**

Serving as the WVMS greeter, Joyce had warmth and friendliness that instantly put everyone at ease. She created a welcoming and supportive environment for students, parents, staff and visitors of all kinds. She has our heartfelt appreciation for the many years of dedicated service she has given the district. We also appreciate her for creating a lasting impression on us all.

**Susan Perez, 21 years**

A WVMS math teacher with a passion for the subject and an exceptional commitment to nurturing high student achievement. She struck a balance between setting high expectations and maintaining a nurturing demeanor, making students feel supported and inspired.

**Karen Gray-Plaisted, 21 years**

Karen fulfilled various roles, including instructional aide, throughout her Warwick career, bringing dedication to well-being and success to each student. She leaves a lasting impression on everyone who works with her in any capacity.

**Darlene Quinn, 19 years**

Darlene approached her role with compassion, understanding and patience, approaching every task with a genuine smile. It was well known that Darlene went above and beyond to meet the needs of the school community.

**Beverley Rice, 33 years**

Beverley supports students at Kings and Sanfordville Elementary Schools, working with hundreds of children and assisting them with articulation, language, and communication skills. Deeply respected in the community and by her colleagues, she is a leader in her department. She will surely be missed.

**Claire Reilly, 23 years**

During her 13 years at Park Avenue and 10 at WVHS, as a secretary Claire built strong bonds with students and colleagues. Her effusive greetings and humor for anyone visiting her office will be missed. Claire helped create a welcoming and warm environment for students and staff.

**Lorraine Schmid, 25 years**

Lorraine managed the kitchen at Sanfordville, providing children with nutritious meals and maintaining a clean and organized environment for students and staff. The respect she earned throughout the district was based on her commitment to ensuring a positive food service experience for all.

**Jennifer Thurston, 15.5 years**

As a WVMS lunch monitor, Jen always showed a strong effort – and exceptional ability – to connect with students. She offered sincere warmth and cared about their well-being. With an unwavering commitment to safety and genuine caring, she fostered a secure and inviting lunch environment for our students.