

PTA Honors Teachers at Founder's Day Celebration

The evening of February 15 the Rochester Community Schools PTA honored many of its volunteers during its annual Founder's Day celebration. Among those honorees were eight members of the Rochester Education Association.

Following is a look at each of these dedicated, determined, and dynamic educators and an excerpt from their PTA nomination biography:

Marnie Barker, Hamlin – Marnie is an extraordinary mom, wife, leader, and friend. She has served Hamlin as an elementary teacher, Early Childhood Interventionist, and Learning Consultant. Marnie is instrumental in Professional Learning Communities, Pyramid of Interventions, and is co-chair of the School Improvement Team.



Kelly Craft

Kelly Craft, Long Meadow – Kelly is an enthusiastic, crafty, innovative, positive member of the Long Meadow staff. Along with teaching first grade, Kelly leads the safety squad and volunteers for any challenge from students with health problems to bulletin boards for the PTA.

Colleen Devlin, Brewster – Colleen is a wonderful teacher who can always be seen throughout Brewster with a smile on her face. She supports the PTA by volunteering her time attending meetings, participating in PTA-related activities, and promoting participation for PTA-sponsored activities.

Virginia Fitzgerald, West – Virginia is a long-time history buff and her passion for the subjects she teaches is apparent to all. Her innovative methods bring history to life in a way that not only piques students' interest but challenges and inspires them to be the best they can be.

Mike Jamieson, Hart – Mike has worked diligently to ensure new students are welcomed to Hart by running the morning Rachel's Challenge Hart Start program. This Hart Start spans three grade levels where students meet to work on Compassion in Action activities, including writing letters to staff and students for specific reasons.



Gayle Martin

Rick Krause, Brooklands – Rick is a first-grade teacher and is responsible for creating the Bear Den Dad's Club. The goal of the club is to help bring fathers to the forefront in their child's education. The Bear's Den also helps support the PTA by getting more fathers involved.

Gayle Martin, Stoney Creek – Gayle is the advisor of The Source, the award-winning school newspaper. She exemplifies the work ethic and motivation expected from students, giving them the tools and encouragement to achieve their goals. She is an advocate for the PTSA, working collaboratively to inform the school community of events and opportunities.

Sharon Sassalos, North Hill – Sharon has been North Hill's art teacher since 1988. During that time she has been an ardent supporter of PTA initiatives. Whether it's working closely with the Authors in April committee, attending PTA events, or supporting our special fundraising initiatives, Sharon is always there for students and parents.