

2018 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree

JUDY RATZENBERGER

RESIDES: GAHANNA, OHIO

Judy Ratzenberger has been an educator for 37 years, coming to Gahanna during her second year in the classroom. She is a proud 1970 graduate of GLHS and pursued her degree in Education at The Ohio State University with a Master's degree from Ashland University.

Judy taught middle school science and math for 21 years and transitioned to an Educational Technology Coach position for the remainder of her career. She has also been active as a coach for a variety of sports teams. Judy has coached the GLHS boys golf team for 18 years and is still currently co-coaching the team with her sister.

Throughout her career, Judy has brought an energy to the classroom that engages students and fuels a passion for learning. She worked to encourage learning beyond the classroom and introduced creative educational tools.

"WE WERE ALLOWED TO BE CREATIVE. WE WERE ALLOWED TO TAKE RISKS AS AN EDUCATOR."

"Judy was the spark that made our school culture the highlight of our work." Said Angie Adrean, past principal at Middle School South. "It was

not unusual for Judy to share new and innovative technology based strategies that could and should be used in the classroom learning environment."

Coming from a family of educators, Judy herself is a life-long learner that is enthusiastic about giving back to the community. She is grateful to GJPS and the staff that has taught her and mentored her.

"They gave me so many opportunities as far as building confidence and enabling me to follow my passions in education. I love to learn and they really fostered that," said Ratzenberger. "Gahanna-Jefferson has given me so much more than I have been able to give back."



One of her favorite projects was starting an Environmental Council with students from all 3 middle schools. It was a chance to bring all middle school students together to work toward a shared goal and shared stewardship of the Gahanna community. They worked with City officials to brainstorm and implement ideas such as planting hundreds of trees and cleaning the Big Walnut Creek area.

Ratzenberger sums up her career at Gahanna, "We were allowed to be creative. We were allowed to take risks as an educator. It is nice to be part of a place that values its students and teachers."