

Teacher Features

Anita Holdridge

What inspired you to become a teacher?

As far back as I can remember, I wanted to be a teacher. But the “language” teacher part had a variety of influences. My dad was a Dutch immigrant (actually from Friesland) and spoke the Frisian language with his brothers and my grandparents. I loved hearing another language! I took Spanish for two years at Waupun High School and then German for the next two years at Waupun Christian High --CWCHS. At “Christian High” my German teacher was also my English teacher, and seeing her go between two languages so easily grew my desire to be a language teacher. I ended up getting degrees in both English and Spanish.



What’s the most challenging part of your job?

Speaking another language is scary, so one of the toughest parts is making students feel comfortable TRYING to speak when they are scared/embarrassed to speak. I want students to feel comfortable and yet brave as they try the new language!

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?

Having students come to me and say “Someone speaking Spanish came in to the store and I was able to help him!” or “I heard someone talking to another person, and I could tell what they were talking about!” They are so excited to USE their Spanish outside of the classroom!

What’s the most memorable moment you’ve had in the classroom?

With so many years of teaching, I just don’t remember! But the little moments that stick with me are when students randomly shout out phrases that they’ve learned previously. It makes me feel good to know that they have some language that they can use to express themselves at a moment’s notice. Even if it’s something like “Yo, también!” (“Me, too!”) when we chat about our weekends. Or just the other day after I got done explaining something, a student shouted out “Qué interesante!” (“How interesting!”). That makes my day! When I get a letter or talk to a former student and they tell me that they were able to make use of Spanish in social or work situations, that’s when I feel like I’ve helped them learn something that will stay with them forever!

What’s your favorite subject/class to teach and why?

I have favorite “things” at each level. For example, I love the “ah-ha” moments that Spanish 1 students have when they realize they can read an entire paragraph for the first time! Or in Spanish 2 when they can write entire stories in Spanish. Or in Spanish 3 or 4 when I can tell a story completely in Spanish and they understand me! Each stage has its “ah-ha” moments...they are all my favorites! Being able to speak in and outside of class with the upper level students is probably the most satisfying, but I love all “mis estudiantes.” :)

Years at the school: I actually did my student teaching back in the 89-90 school year with an English teacher named Gaylene Bradley. Then I got hired in the fall of 1990 for a part time Language Arts position in Brandon Middle School. Then in the fall of 1991, I was hired full time, teaching English & Spanish at Laconia over the course of the next 30 years. At some points, I taught World Languages classes at the middle schools as well. Currently, I am the Spanish I, II, III, and IV teacher.

Hometown: Waupun and Alto area (went to public and private schools in the Waupun school district).

Education: Trinity Christian College in Palos Heights, IL (1 year with an English major focus); Moraine Park Technical College with an Associate Degree in Corrections Science; Marian University with a Bachelor’s degree in English & Secondary Education and K-12 Spanish certification.

Family: Married to Dan Holdridge and live in the Pickett area. We have two grown sons (Nick & Alex) who are married and work in construction & woodworking, and from them we have 3 grandchildren. We have one 19-year old son, Jon, still at home, attending Fox Valley Tech.

Sue Fellerer

What inspired you to become a teacher?

I knew I wanted to become a teacher since I was in 4th grade. My best friend’s mom was a kindergarten teacher and would give me all of her old worksheets and such. I would then set up my stuffed animals as a pretend class and use the worksheet to teach them. When I was older, I felt that teaching would provide me with challenges and variety every day. If the day went poorly, the next day was a fresh start.



What’s the most challenging part of your job?

I teach technology, which is ever-changing. It is challenging to stay on top of current trends, keep expanding my knowledge base, and find new and creative ways to share this information with my students.

What’s the most rewarding part of your job?

The most rewarding part of my job is when I see a student who has been struggling with a concept, have that “ah-ha” moment and finally figure it out. I feel a sense of accomplishment that the student was successful and I enjoy seeing the pride they feel by overcoming their challenges.

What’s the most memorable moment you’ve had in the classroom?

One of the courses I teach is an introduction to computer science, where students spend time building robots. I am always impressed by my students’ creativity and all of the unique designs they come up with. It amazes me how quickly students can pick up a challenge and run with it.

What’s your favorite subject/class to teach and why?

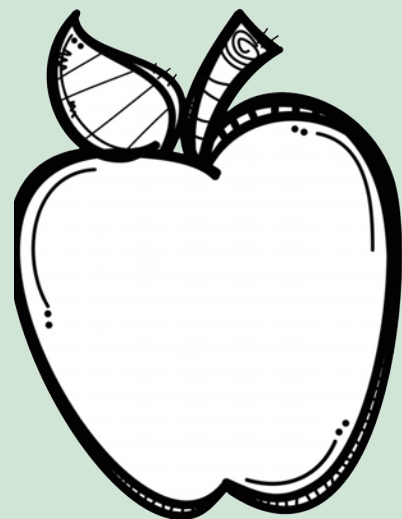
My favorite class is definitely Introduction to Computer Science and the robotics unit. As I said in the previous question, I am amazed at all of the unique designs the students come up with and their creativity is an awesome thing to see.

Years at the school: This is my 19th year with the district.

Hometown: I moved a lot when I was growing up; we finally settled in Sun Prairie and that is where I graduated high school.

Education: UW Oshkosh with a Bachelor of Science, double major in Sociology and Anthropology, Marian College with a Bachelor of Science, majoring in Secondary Education - Broad Field Social Studies, UW Oshkosh with a Master’s degree in Educational Leadership and Library Media.

Family: I am a single mom of two grown children and am a foster mom of a middle school student.



THE SPARTAN SENTINEL

Is published monthly during the school year by the
Rosendale-Brandon School District
300 West Wisconsin Street
Rosendale, WI 54974

Spartan Sentinel Staff
Editor: Danielle Olejniczak
Layout: Laconia High School publications class

Vol. 40 No.9, May 7, 2021

Watch your mailbox! The next edition
of *The Spartan Sentinel* will reach your
mailbox on June 4.

Email submissions to Danielle Olejniczak
(publications@rbsd.k12.wi.us) by
Thursday, May 20.

NOTICE OF NON-DISCRIMINATION POLICY

The Rosendale-Brandon School District, in accordance with state and federal law, does not discriminate because of the person’s sex, race, color, religion, gender, sexual orientation, age, national origin, ancestry, creed, disability, military or veteran status, political affiliation, pregnancy, marital or parental status, physical, mental, emotional or learning disability or hardship, or other basis prohibited under state and federal law, in its employment and educational policies and practices, including those for career and Technical Education courses.