

## 2018 Dale Foor Cornerstone Award Honoree

**JACK SCHMIDT**

RESIDES: GAHANNA, OHIO

Jack Schmidt was an educator for the Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools for 38 years as both a teacher and administrator. He began his career in Gahanna in 1958 as a math teacher and coach. He spent 8 years teaching before taking on various administrative roles within the district.

In 1966 Schmidt was asked to take the Assistant Principal's job at GLHS. This was the beginning of his lengthy administrative career. He served as a high school Assistant Principal, Principal, Assistant Superintendent and from 1994-1996 his final role was the district's Superintendent.



Schmidt has been credited with being a strong leader who had high expectations for both staff and students during his administrative tenure. Dale Foor, retired Gahanna administrator, said "Without question, I believe Jack was the most impactful

administrator ever in setting the foundations, standards and procedures that allowed Gahanna to transition from a small town to a model suburban district."

Schmidt looked back on his tenure within the district and commented that he was proud of creating an attitude that was conducive to learning. He said he always tried to surround himself with good people that made sure learning was taking place.

"From a pure enjoyment standpoint and the feeling that you are really doing something ...I loved the teaching and coaching. The thing about teaching and coaching – you have daily contact with kids, you see a lot of first hand

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success and you feel good about yourself. In administration you have to keep reminding yourself that what you are doing does impact the life of the kids. You're still impacting their life but you don't have a measuring stick."

"Jack Schmidt was a leader. His advice was important. His expectations were fair and reflected vision for a growing high school that would offer excellence in learning," said retired Gahanna administrator John Howard.

Schmidt grew up in Lima, Ohio, the youngest of 8 children. After graduating from high school, he attended The Ohio State University and graduated in 1956 with a BA in math through the education department. He went back to OSU and graduated with an MA in 1966.

Schmidt reflected, "Thirty-eight years and I loved every minute of it. I wouldn't have changed a thing."

Since retiring in 1996 Schmidt and his wife, Eleanor, enjoy spending time in Florida during the winter months. They have two children, Scott and Stefanie, and four grandchildren, Haley, Tanner, Kaylee and Tyler.