

Gahanna Jefferson Education Foundation
2013 CORNERSTONE AWARD HONOREES

Claire Yoder

Since 1989, Claire Yoder has served in many capacities within Gahanna-Jefferson Schools. Her record of accomplishments and service to Gahanna-Jefferson began as a member of the High Point Elementary School PTA through 1995, continuing with the Middle School East PTA through 1998, and Gahanna Lincoln High School PTA through 2001.

“The impact of the work she has done over the years with Gahanna teachers, students, parents, and community members are immeasurable. There is no one else who has done so much for the District, or touched so many lives, or served in so many different roles,” said Dana Johnson, a retired Gahanna Lincoln High School educator. Johnson added, “She has encouraged and supported the staff in thinking outside the box, implementing such initiatives as block scheduling at the high school and programs that built bridges for elementary students moving to middle school and middle school students moving to the high school.”

During Claire’s nearly three-decade commitment to the District, many of her initiatives with the PTAs were “firsts” for Gahanna-Jefferson such as the installation of a climbing wall at High Point Elementary School, the annual Gahanna Middle School East back-to-school supply sale, and the *Lincoln Library Legacies*.

In addition, she has been an ongoing guest reader during the annual Dr. Seuss™/Read Across America Day Celebration, as well as the National African American Read-In Day™ event. Claire has often volunteered to speak at career day events, assist in evaluating student projects, and to be a parent representative in various capacities, including a staff workshop sponsored by *The Coalition of Effective Schools*. During this time, she also served as the chairperson for the District’s 1996 levy campaign and on a committee evaluating the construction of a second high school. Accordingly, the Gahanna-Jefferson Education Association recognized her with its *1996 Friend of Education* award.

In January 2002, she was elected to the Gahanna-Jefferson Board of Education, with a commitment and tireless pace remaining unabated. She has been a presenter at an OSBA Conference on the subject of rehiring a retiring Superintendent following the changes made to the Ohio Revised Code on the subject. Claire played a significant role in shaping the vision and development of Clark Hall and the Gahanna Community School. As board president, Claire oversaw the recent Superintendent’s search and the process to fill a vacant board seat. She is currently collaborating with the mayor of the City of Gahanna to identify opportunities for shared services.

In addition to her attendance at many District events, she represents the Board at meetings of Gahanna City Council, Jefferson Township, Metropolitan Educational Council, and Gahanna-Jefferson School Business Advisory Council.

Claire has a Bachelor of Education from Kent State University, a Master of Theological Studies from the University of Dayton, and a Master of Divinity from Trinity Lutheran Seminary. She has served as a chaplain with The Ohio State University Hospital and the OhioHealth system. Claire’s current term concludes December 31, 2013.