

2015 CORNERSTONE AWARDS

Sue Bethel

"I like to say that I never taught a grade level, I always taught the children."

Sue Bethel has been an educator for 38 years, coming to Gahanna-Jefferson Public Schools during her second year in the classroom. She taught Gahanna elementary students at Jefferson and High Point elementary schools, spending most of her time in the second and third grade classrooms.

"I worked with Sue for 19 years and was fortunate enough to observe a true 'Master Teacher'," said one nominee. "Her classroom was one of engagement where students were always challenged, but it was done in an atmosphere of warm, loving motivation. She was interested in the whole child."

Bethel notes that she never looked at her career as teaching one grade level, always focusing on the children instead and professed to working with students constantly.

"I just got something out of teaching," said Bethel. "From the students, and the parents, and the staff alike. There's no arrival in this profession – you are always learning."

"As a parent who volunteered a lot at the elementary school, Sue was very appreciative and cooperative when it came to working together," said Jody Cox. "She was a teacher who could motivate, assess and come up with a solution."

Bethel says she fell in love with Gahanna, and had wonderful mentors throughout her career. Sue recalled fellow teachers, parents and administrators helping and lending a hand when necessary.

"This award is a finale of sorts for my passion and career," said Bethel. "Next to my family, I enjoyed the children and my classroom the most."

In addition to her tenure with Gahanna Jefferson Public Schools, she has served as both a cooperating teacher and mentor at Capital University in Bexley.

"I often tell new teachers how much they'll like it here in Gahanna," said Bethel. "They all come back and tell me that I was right!"

Bethel is a graduate of West Liberty University, The Ohio State University and Ashland University.