

2011 Cornerstone Award Inductee
Jennifer Block

Jennifer Block's 30-year teaching career includes 28 years of service with Gahanna-Jefferson Schools. After graduating from Capital University in 1972, she began her employment at Shawnee Local Schools in Lima, teaching second grade for two years. She returned to the Gahanna area in 1974 where she served as a tutor and substitute teacher for two years. In 1975, she was hired fulltime at Chapelfield Elementary as a first-grade teacher for one year followed by a second year teaching Grade 2. Due to the birth of her son, Jennifer decided to take a few years off from working fulltime, but continued her services as a substitute until 1982 when she was rehired by the district as a kindergarten teacher at Royal Manor Elementary. She remained at Royal Manor for another 23 years until her retirement in November 2005.

Dan Rotella, former Royal Manor Elementary principal during Block's tenure, commented, "I cannot think of a better way for a kindergarten student to begin their educational journey than by being in Mrs. Block's class. Students were exposed to a nurturing atmosphere, a kind and gentle soul, and to great academic explorations. Students flourished under her guidance, and her influences went beyond the students as she was also loved by staff and parents alike. When Jennifer talked, others listened and took note."

As Jennifer reflects on her school career, both as a student and as a teacher, she feels it has come full circle. She began in the G-J district as a freshman student in the "new" Gahanna Lincoln High School (GLHS) building in 1964. And, when hired as an educator in 1975, her mother was still serving as a teacher as well as most of the high school teachers she had there. Some of her favorite memories are of sending graduation cards to her former kindergarten students, and how many of them would write back and tell her about their future plans and how surprised they were that she remembered them.