

Congratulations TO Our Retirees!

Celebrating
20 STAFF MEMBERS
with 426 combined years
of service and
countless memories

Thank you

for your unwavering commitment and
exceptional service to Blaine County School
District students. Your dedication and hard work
have been the foundation of our success. You are
truly what makes our school district so great!



CAREY SCHOOL



MARLA VILLAVICENCIO **BILINGUAL/SPECIAL ED** **PARAPROFESSIONAL, 21 YEARS**

We celebrate Marla as she retires after years of dedicated service filled with compassion and care. Her journey began when her son Jean arrived from Peru, and the two spent countless evenings working on homework together. When another Spanish-speaking family needed support, Marla stepped in—and discovered her passion.

Guided early on by Mary Steinbus, Marla grew into a trusted support for hundreds of Spanish-speaking students over the years. Her work has always come from the heart, and she has expressed deep gratitude for every moment.

As she looks ahead, Marla is excited to enjoy long walks and finally tackle that house remodel.

Marla, thank you for the difference you have made. We wish you joy, health, and relaxation in this next chapter—you've truly earned it.

Happy Retirement, Marla!



CARLA SCANLON **LIBRARY MEDIA SPECIALIST, 33 YEARS**

We honor Carla as she retires after an extraordinary career dedicated to students, colleagues, and community. Hired in February 1992 to teach 6th grade at Hailey Elementary, Carla went on to teach 4th grade for 15 years before serving districtwide as a Cognitive Coach, Math Specialist, and GATE Teacher. For the past nine years, she has shared her love of learning in the Carey School library.

Carla began her teaching journey while raising six children—a feat she accomplished with strength and grace. Along the way, she was named Mountain Express Woman of the Year for her leadership and service.

Her impact stretches far beyond the classroom. From helping students prepare for jobs and scholarships to supporting families in need, mentoring new citizens, and even providing dental care—Carla has uplifted those around her in countless ways.

She holds dear the joy of hearing “Mrs. Scanlon!” called out by former students and the honor of being remembered as a favorite teacher.

As she looks ahead, Carla is excited for a summer trip to Europe, more time with family, finishing long-awaited projects, exploring her bucket list, and continuing her lifelong passion for community service.

Carla, thank you for your tireless dedication, generous heart, and lasting legacy. You leave a mark that won't be forgotten.

Happy Retirement, Carla!



HAILEY ELEMENTARY



MARY GIN BARRON ELEMENTARY TEACHER, 31 YEARS

We celebrate Mary Gin as she retires after 31 years of inspiring and impactful teaching. Throughout her career, she has guided countless students—many of whom now proudly greet her in the valley to share their successes as electricians, writers, business owners, world travelers, medical students, and even hydrologists.

One standout memory for Mary Gin is the economics system she introduced at Woodside to motivate students. Years later, at a Cinco de Mayo celebration, a former student approached her with heartfelt thanks, saying, “I learned that I have to work hard for what I want.” Moments like these remind us of the lasting impact she’s made.

Mary Gin’s passion for teaching shines through in every memory and connection. As she steps into retirement, she’s looking forward to camping across Idaho this fall and traveling in the seasons to come.

Mary Gin, thank you for your years of dedication, creativity, and heart. Your legacy lives on in every student you’ve inspired.

Congratulations, Mary Gin!



JENNIFER MURPHY ENL TEACHER (K-5), 18 YEARS

We celebrate Jennifer as she retires after 22 years of heartfelt dedication to students—19 of those at Hailey Elementary. She began in the Reading Clinic and spent most of her career teaching first grade, before moving into her current role as an ELD teacher four years ago.

A true highlight of Jennifer’s career has been watching her first-grade students grow into confident, fluent readers. Looking back, she hopes she’s helped nurture a love of reading that lasts a lifetime.

Her time in the classroom brought many smiles, including one memorable moment from kindergarten. After months of cold-weather layers, Jennifer removed her sweater on a warm spring day—prompting a student to exclaim in surprise, “Ms. Murphy, you have arms!”

Jennifer and her husband, Patrick Kinney, are both retiring this year. After long days of dreaming about future adventures, their first stop will be a trip north in their teardrop trailer into Canada. In September, they hope to be bicycling along the Loire River in France.

Jennifer, thank you for the joy, care, and literacy you have brought to generations of students. We wish you and Patrick a retirement full of discovery, laughter, and new stories to tell.

Congratulations, Jennifer!



HAILEY ELEMENTARY



TRACEY MUNK ELEMENTARY TEACHER, 15 YEARS

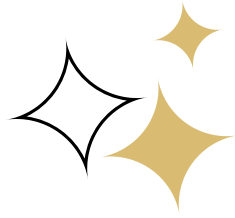
We celebrate Tracey as she wraps up a meaningful career in education—one marked by flexibility, teamwork, and heart. From starting in 5th grade to teaching Kindergarten, 3rd grade, and now finishing in 4th, Tracey has made an impact at every level.

She's most proud of the strong collaborations she has built with her teams, the joy of seeing former students all grown up, and the confidence that she gave her very best each and every day.

As she steps into retirement, Tracey is looking forward to embracing the great outdoors, focusing on her health, and exploring unusual and exotic places.

Tracey, thank you for your years of dedication and the positivity you brought to your students and colleagues alike. Here's to the adventure ahead—you've earned it!

Congratulations, Tracey!



HEMINGWAY STEAM SCHOOL



BECKY BENSON RTC PARAPROFESSIONAL, 14 YEARS

We celebrate Becky as she retires after years of dedicated service to students and families in Blaine County. From her early work with the Blaine County Education Foundation to her time at Hemingway from 2011 to 2025, Becky has always been a steady source of care and support.

She takes pride in having helped students throughout her career, hoping she has made a difference in their lives—and it is clear she has. One memorable moment was when she calmly comforted a kindergarten student who broke his arm on the monkey bars, staying with him until his dad returned from a hike. It's just one example of the compassion she has shown time and again.

As Becky enters retirement, she looks forward to a trip to Portugal this fall, more travel, fly-fishing, quality time with her kids, and savoring an extra cup of coffee in the mornings.

Becky, thank you for your quiet strength, care, and lasting impact. We wish you all the best in this exciting new chapter.

Congratulations, Becky!



ALTURAS ELEMENTARY



MICHELLE ARCHIBALD **INTERVENTION SPECIALIST (K-5)** **16 YEARS**

We celebrate Michelle as she retires after a career filled with dedication, growth, and heart. She began as a paraprofessional with BCSD and enjoyed it so much that she returned to college, earning her elementary education degree in 2004. After teaching for eight years in Twin Falls, she returned to Hailey in 2012—and found her home in the Dual Immersion program.

For the past 13 years, Michelle has poured her passion into teaching reading, first and second grade, and most recently serving as a reading interventionist. Earning her ENL endorsement from Boise State reflects her commitment to reaching and supporting every learner.

Michelle shares that the love she has received from her students and their families will forever warm her heart—and it is clear that love is mutual.

As she looks ahead, Michelle and her husband (also retiring!) are excited to embrace grandparent life, travel, play golf, and finally sleep in.

Michelle, thank you for your warmth, wisdom, and unwavering care. You have made a lasting impact, and we wish you a retirement full of joy and well-deserved rest.

Happy Retirement, Michelle!



SHAWN FENWICK **GATE TEACHER (K-5), 30 YEARS (ALTURAS/CAREY)**

We celebrate Shawn as she retires after 30 years of inspiring and evolving as an educator. She began her journey in 1994 teaching first grade at Bellevue Elementary and has since taught in a variety of grades, programs, and schools—each experience shaping her into the incredible teacher she is today.

Shawn is especially proud to have been part of the Dual Immersion program from the very beginning and to witness its growth into what is now Alturas Elementary. Becoming a parent along the way also deepened her empathy and understanding for the students and families she served.

As she looks ahead, Shawn is excited to fully enjoy the beauty of this valley in every season. Shawn, thank you for your years of dedication, adaptability, and heart. You have made a lasting mark, and we wish you peace, joy, and adventure in this next chapter.

Congratulations, Shawn!



BELLEVUE ELEMENTARY



KRISTA JONES TECHNOLOGY ED TEACHER (K-5) 36 YEARS

Krista began her career in 1988, teaching 1st grade for 9 years before spending the next 27 as the Engineering Tech teacher at Bellevue Elementary—5 of those years also serving Carey. Over her 36-year career, she built personal connections with more than 7,000 students. Her goal was always to create a space where kids felt loved, heard, and empowered to explore and lead.

Some of Krista's most memorable contributions include:

- 17 years producing Bellevue Weather Watchers radio shows with 5th graders.
- 15 years writing and photographing for Technology & Children magazine.
- 18 years leading Cub Council, a student service leadership team.
- 18 years of mentoring 3rd and 5th graders through the M&M peer program.
- 5 years as a NASA education liaison, creating materials and working with scientists.
- 10 years coaching robotics—her team competed internationally this year!

Krista's future plans include traveling, gardening, art, enjoying nature, and spending time with friends and family. She is excited to finally have time to do it all!

Happy Retirement, Krista!



SILVER CREEK HIGH SCHOOL



CRAIG KAMINSKI SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, 14 YEARS

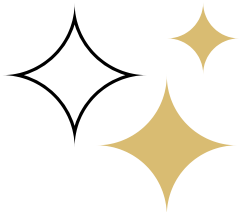
Craig has mentored and supported the students of Silver Creek with genuine care and a deep commitment to their success—not just in school, but in life. His colleagues describe him as someone who leads from the heart, offering students a powerful combination of love and limits. He enforces boundaries with kindness and empathy, and he builds trust in a way that can't be taught.

Students respected Craig not only as a teacher, but as a person. He modeled how to stay humble, repair mistakes, laugh along the way, and always put people first. His impact goes far beyond the classroom—graduates continue to come back and thank him for the difference he made in their lives.

Craig also served as a mentor to high school athletes. One parent shared that Craig's encouragement, feedback, and belief in her son kept him on track and in school when he might have otherwise dropped out. As she put it, "It's not always academics that keep kids in school—it's people like Craig."

Craig's presence will be deeply missed, but his legacy of connection, compassion, and belief in every student will live on in the halls of Silver Creek and beyond.

Congratulations, Craig!



WOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL



PATRICK KINNEY **READING/LANG ARTS TEACHER** **16 YEARS**

We honor Patrick as he retires after a rewarding career with the Blaine County School District. Starting in the 2009–2010 school year as a Special Education paraprofessional, he pursued his passion and became a certified teacher. From 2012 to 2025, Patrick served Wood River Middle School as a Reading Specialist and RTI Coordinator.

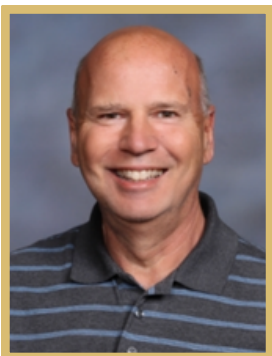
Patrick has worked tirelessly to encourage and validate his students as they grow into confident, literate thinkers. As an RTI Coordinator, he fostered respectful communication and collaboration among colleagues. He takes pride in the positive impact he has made in both roles.

His greatest joy comes from the meaningful role he's played in our community and the lives of young people, cherishing the countless moments of gratitude he has received along the way.

Looking ahead, Patrick plans to be present for his family across Idaho, Oregon, and California while reflecting on the many gifts his time with BCSD has offered and exploring new paths to follow.

Patrick, thank you for your dedication, kindness, and the difference you have made. We wish you fulfillment and joy in this next chapter.

Congratulations, Patrick!



STEVE LALONE **HEAD CUSTODIAN, 24 YEARS**

We celebrate Steve as he retires after more than two decades of dedicated service with Blaine County School District. Starting in July 2000, Steve took great pride in keeping the building and grounds at Wood River Middle School looking their best—earning compliments from both students and staff alike.

Steve has cherished the simple joys of school life, from kids greeting him in the hallways and cafeteria to memorable moments like “dancing” at last year’s talent show—complete with a fall off the stage that brought the crowd roaring with laughter. And of course, he felt a special satisfaction putting the snow blower away for the last time.

Looking ahead, Steve plans to move back to New England, continue traveling the world, enjoy plenty of hiking and biking, volunteer, and maybe even take an art or foreign language class at a local community college.

Steve, thank you for your hard work, good humor, and connection with the community. We wish you all the best as you embark on this exciting new chapter!

Happy Retirement, Steve!



WOOD RIVER MIDDLE SCHOOL



SHEILA NAGHSH **SOCIAL STUDIES TEACHER, 30 YEARS**

We proudly recognize Sheila for her 30 years of dedicated service as both a teacher and coach in our community—a true testament to her remarkable “staying power.”

Throughout her career with Blaine County School District, Sheila embraced many leadership roles, including 6th-grade team leader, ski program director in her early years, Environmental School Director, junior counselor recruiter, and high school JV girls soccer coach.

Sheila extends a heartfelt “Thank You” to BCSD for giving her the opportunity to grow professionally from such a young age, to her amazing colleagues, and especially to Fritz Peters for his many years of support and guidance.

One of Sheila’s unique honors has been teaching the children—and even siblings—of many former students. A cherished memory is from 1998, when most of the Sun Valley Suns Peewee hockey team were in her class. Because of her love of sports, especially hockey, colleagues placed her with this high-energy group. One of those players grew up to coach her son’s SV Suns team to a National Championship—an unforgettable highlight she holds close.

Though her future plans are still taking shape, Sheila looks forward to traveling, having fun, and—most of all—enjoying retirement without being called back as a guest teacher!

Sheila, thank you for your passion, leadership, and lasting impact. We wish you joy and adventure in the exciting years ahead.

Congratulations, Sheila!



KRISTI VANDENBERG **SPECIAL ED PARAPROFESSIONAL, 14 YEARS**

We celebrate Kristi for her many years of dedicated service to Blaine County School District. From 2004 to 2018, she inspired young athletes as a middle school volleyball coach, then continued as assistant varsity volleyball coach from 2019 to 2021. Since 2011, Kristi has also made a lasting impact as a Special Education Paraprofessional.

Kristi treasures the connections she has made with so many students over the years—from coaching her own children and other athletes to supporting the exceptionally gifted children of our valley. She carries countless wonderful memories from her time with BCSD.

Looking ahead, Kristi plans to enjoy some well-deserved free time and travel to visit family. Kristi, thank you for your dedication, kindness, and the difference you have made. We wish you all the best in this exciting next chapter!

Happy Retirement, Kristi!



WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL



MIRABELLE AMOUR SPECIAL ED PARAPROFESSIONAL 6 YEARS

We honor Mirabelle for her six years of dedicated service as a paraprofessional in the Special Education department at Wood River High School. She takes great pride in the strong relationships she built with staff and teachers to provide the best support possible for students.

Throughout her time, Mirabelle gained valuable skills across multiple subject areas, helping her better assist and teach students. Some of her favorite memories are watching students she first met as 8th graders walk across the graduation stage—witnessing their incredible growth has been truly rewarding.

Looking ahead, Mirabelle plans to embark on a hiking trip in the Dolomites and explore creative pursuits like watercolor painting.

Mirabelle, thank you for your kindness, dedication, and the positive impact you have made. We wish you joy and inspiration in your next adventures! *Congratulations, Mirabelle!*



JOEL ZELLERS SPECIAL ED TEACHER, 23 YEARS

We proudly honor Joel for his many years of dedicated teaching, starting in Meridian, Idaho in 1994 and joining Blaine County School District in 2001.

Joel's greatest pride lies in being a passionate advocate for students with special needs. He believes educators carry the important responsibility of fostering intellectual growth, encouraging freedom of expression, and nurturing acceptance of diverse individuals and cultures.

Among his many contributions, Joel founded a Model United Nations program that enlightens students about global affairs and equips them to thoughtfully engage with complex geopolitical issues. He also started an Amnesty International chapter, offering students invaluable lessons on human rights and their real-world importance.

Joel takes particular pride in the success of special education students at Wood River High School, many of whom have gone on to post-secondary education with dignity and confidence—a testament to the power of inclusive education and personalized learning.

Outside the classroom, Joel founded the WRHS mountain biking team, inspiring students to become stewards of the trails and champions of the sport. Under his guidance, the team won the Idaho State Championship five times, showcasing the impact of extracurriculars in building teamwork, perseverance, and excellence.

Joel is proud to be an educator and to have positively influenced students of all backgrounds and abilities. Looking ahead, he plans to play hard, work less, and spend quality time with his family. Joel, thank you for your dedication, leadership, and lasting impact. We wish you all the best in this exciting new chapter!

Happy Retirement, Joel!



WOOD RIVER HIGH SCHOOL



SHANNON MOSS SPANISH TEACHER, 30 YEARS

We celebrate Shannon's remarkable career with the district, which began in 1994. Early on, she earned her Master's degree while teaching and went on to develop a successful AP Spanish language program as well as the curricula for several World Language and Dual Immersion courses.

One memorable moment Shannon shares is a creative project where she and a colleague held a funeral in the Community Campus auditorium so students could demonstrate mastery of the past tense. As she lay "dead" on stage surrounded by candles, she fought to keep a straight face while students solemnly described her life.

Another standout memory is a professional development trip that inspired Shannon and a colleague to completely transform the programming of an advanced class. Their new approach brought culture alive in the classroom, enriching the learning experience firsthand. Looking ahead, Shannon plans to spend more quality time with family and friends, and to travel to new foreign places.

Shannon, thank you for your passion, creativity, and dedication. We wish you joy and adventure in your next chapter! *Happy Retirement, Shannon!*



AMY MCGRAW ENGLISH/LANG ARTS TEACHER, 32 YEARS

Amy began her journey with Wood River Middle School as a social studies student-teacher in 1991 and started teaching English at Wood River High School in 1992 when Bill Resko hired her to fill in for a teacher on sabbatical. When that teacher returned, Amy secured a permanent spot and has been a valued member of the WRHS community ever since.

She is especially proud of teaming up with Eleanor Rogers to introduce the AP English Language and Composition course at the high school. Together, they built a rigorous curriculum that challenged students to sharpen their critical reading, writing, and thinking skills. Many of those students earned college credit by passing the national exam, a testament to their hard work and Amy's dedication.

Amy's favorite memories include welcoming exchange students and sharing new cultures with WRHS students and families through volunteer work. She also cherished advising Model UN students alongside Joel Zellers and James Foster. Over the years, Amy has enjoyed having children of former students walk through her classroom doors, reconnecting with families and sharing in the community's growth. The daily laughter and curiosity of her students kept her inspired to keep learning, engaging, and striving for excellence.

Looking ahead, Amy is ready to relax, travel, spend quality time with family, and most importantly —NOT GRADE ANYTHING!

Amy, thank you for your dedication and the impact you have made on so many young lives. Wishing you all the best in your well-deserved next chapter! *Congratulations, Amy!*



TRANSPORTATION



DIANE DUNFORD **BUS DRIVER, 18 YEARS**

Diane proudly served as a dedicated bus driver for 18 years with Blaine County School District. Known for her reliability and commitment to safety, Diane was trusted and respected by students, families, and her coworkers alike. Her warm personality and steady presence helped start and end the school day on a positive note for countless students over the years.

Her supervisor shared that Diane was one of the most dependable and safest drivers on the team—an example of professionalism and care. She was truly loved by those who rode her route and those who worked alongside her.

Ironically, Diane didn't retire because she was ready—but because her husband was! He didn't want to wake up early enough to shovel the driveway before her morning route, and so the next chapter begins.

Her future plans include spending more time with her husband and family—and, with any luck, returning now and then as a Guest Driver when needed. *Happy Retirement, Diane!*



CYNTHIA HART **BUS MONITOR, 5 YEARS OF SERVICE**

Cindy dedicated 25 incredible years as the lead teacher at the Hailey Head Start program and spent the last 5 years supporting children with special needs in the BCSD Transportation Department.

She is most proud of the many children she helped succeed in school—and in life. Cindy loved watching her students grow, and nothing brought her more joy than seeing a child thrive. She also celebrated the achievements of the parents she supported, many of whom went on to graduate from high school and college. She believes that every moment is a teaching moment, and her heart is full knowing she still receives graduation announcements and photos from her former Head Start students. “How great is that?” she said. “I am so blessed.”

Her future plans are as vibrant as her career has been—she's looking forward to travel, yoga, painting, cooking, hiking, and spending more time with family and friends while soaking in everything this beautiful valley has to offer. She will also work part-time at Little River Preschool “because it's just so much fun!” And with a house in Lake Havasu, AZ, she is looking forward to swapping her snow shovel for sunshine in the winters.

Cindy's parting words to her coworkers in Transportation: “Goodbye—it's been a blast!”

Congratulations, Cindy!

