

Honoring
our
2020-2021
Retirees



Sharon Duszak



Sharon has worked for the district from 1994-2020. In 2009 she came to the bus garage as a bus attendant and worked on many buses until she found her “home” on Deb Saturno’s bus. It was a great fit for both of them. She helped keep students safe on the ride to and from school. Sharon was firm but fair and really liked her job.

We all wish Sharon well on her retirement and hope she finds time to have some fun too. Even though it has been a very different year and seeing people has not been easy or at all, we hope to see her in person to wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

Thank you for 26 years of service.



Melody Fredrickson



Melody dedicated 18 years to Solvay as a teacher, coach, and department chair. She worked with our soccer and volleyball programs from the modified to the varsity level. Mel took pride in developing our middle school kids to be ready to compete at the JV and Varsity levels. She truly cared about her students and pushed them to be their best.

Mel, we wish you the best in retirement. Thank you for all your years of service and all you did for the student athletes of Solvay. Come back and visit to see all your Bearcats competing. Once a Bearcat always a Bearcat!

Thank you for 18 years of service.



Wendy Hennessey



Wendy dedicated 18 years of assisting and supporting students in the district. From our youngest Bearcats to middle school aged students, Wendy gave her whole heart to each of them. She could be found coming in early and leaving late to make sure “kids” needs were met. She loved crafting and decorating with the students at holiday time as well as making connection with their families.

Making students feel loved and welcomed was always her first priority. This was made clear by the numerous visits she would get from former students each year.

Wendy, we wish you only the best as you move onto the next chapter of your life. You will be greatly missed!

Thank you for 18 years of service.



Barbara McCarthy



Barb dedicated 26 years to Solvay. She began her career in the middle school guidance office. She was known for the compassion she showed to students. Students entering the office felt welcomed, valued, and supported. Barb will be remembered as genuine, receptive, patient and a welcoming ear to all those that entered, staff, students, and parents.

Barb spent the last 8 of years working in the curriculum and instruction office. She quickly became known as the SchoolTool guru and spreadsheet queen. Barb was always focused on details and good with numbers, which were so valuable in her role. Barb had to be flexible because NYSED is constantly changing reporting requirements and methods. Each year came with a slightly new twist and Barb handled with ease.

Barb will be greatly missed but we know she will keep busy in retirement. Barb looks forward to spending as much time as she can with her grandchildren. She also has plans to travel with her husband and enjoy days with nothing on her to do list. We wish Barb a happy, fulfilling, and adventurous retirement. The district will greatly miss Barb, but her impact on the district will last well into the future.

Thank you for 26 years of service.



John Owens



John has been teaching Chemistry at Solvay High School since the fall of 1994. During this time, he has engaged students with his enthusiasm for teaching, his passion for the content, and the robust nature of his delivery. John is a teacher who has always had his students' best interests at heart and will walk away from this profession having impacted thousands of students!

As John steps into retirement, he will spend more time with his family and enjoy all that comes with being retired, but he has also said he will continue to be a part of the school community. Congratulations, John!

Thank you for 27 years of service.



Lisa Ruszczak



Lisa has worked for Solvay for 23 years. She began her career working at SES in the Library. After a short period of time, Lisa moved to the main office at SHS. Lisa quickly adjusted to the bigger students, the change in language, and the pace and life of high school. She often googled words and phrases the students used to understand what the students meant. Lisa has always gone above and beyond. When a student needed something, Lisa was always the first to help. Events and activities require a lot of preparation and planning, Lisa would gladly help including assisting with graduation robes and hoods. Behind the scenes Lisa is incredibly generous, always helping both students and staff in need. Lisa would always see the good side of a student, even when a student was sent to the office to see administration. The past couple of years Lisa moved to the district office working in accounts payable. She loves working with numbers including helping out in the concession stand during football games running the cash register.

Lisa grew up in Solvay on Charles Ave. and graduated from SHS. Lisa and Ray have three wonderful children all of which graduated from Solvay. She is very dedicated to family and is always excited to spend time with her grandchildren. Lisa loves Disney and family vacations. She is a big fan of Zoo's and all kinds of animals, none are too cute especially giraffes. Lisa enjoys Super Bowls and March Madness as well, but I'm not sure it's to watch the game. We wish Lisa a very happy, healthy, and fun retirement! We will miss you and hope that you and Ray have a wonderful time and enjoy the family!

Thank you for 23 years of service.



Edward Slowik



Ed worked from 2000-2020 as a bus driver. Most of his time he was driving special needs students. He took as many trips as he could to Special Olympics, bowling, Zoo, etc. Ed was always smiling and friendly to everyone.

We all wish you the very best in your retirement. Travel and see some of the world. Visit your kids and do not let Pam work you to hard. We miss your smiling face.

Thank you for 20 years of service.





**Thank you for your service to
our students and school
community.**