

**MPSD Announces the Class of 2021 Inductees to
“Wall of Honor”**

Marshfield Superintendent of Schools, Jeffrey Granatino, announced that three individuals have been selected to the district’s 2021 class of the **MPSD Wall of Honor**. The three inductees are **Ms. Marie Kurmin, Mr. Richard Gardner and Mr. Bruce Davenport**.

All three inductees have made a major impact on the educational landscape of Marshfield over the past 50 years. Two, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Davenport, were long-time educators in the district, with Mr. Gardner teaching English at the MHS for 32 years and Mr. Davenport teaching at the DWS for 35 years. Ms. Kurmin has served the students, staff and families of the MPSD over the past twenty years as a “volunteer extraordinaire”, taking on various projects at all levels of the district, with a “can do attitude” and always with a smile on her face.

Mr. Richard Gardner started off in the district as a hard working English teacher at Marshfield High School in 1974. By 1993 he became Chair of the English Department and had a meaningful impact not only on his students, but on the educators he mentored within his department. He also volunteered for a number of activities around MHS, sat on NEASC steering committees and served as a Class Advisor for close to 10 years. He also served as a volunteer assistant coach on the Golf Team for 16 years. Mr. Gardner retired in 2006 having shaped the lives of many students and educators in the Marshfield Public Schools. As one of his nominators noted, “Dick’s first, and most important, job was to teach his students. He found a way, his unique way, of relating to each student so he could determine how best to help them learn and discover in his class.” The impact he had on his students was highlighted by the fact that he had five MHS yearbooks (‘76, ‘83, ‘88, ‘95 and ‘01) dedicated to him.

Mr. Bruce Davenport began teaching in the MPSD in 1973. He had an amazing 35 year career impacting students across the town of Marshfield. He spent time teaching at the Grace Ryder School, the Eames Way School, the Governor Winslow School, the Martinson Middle School, the Furnace Brook Middle School and the Daniel Webster School. Beyond his impact in the classroom, “Mr. D.” had a positive influence on all aspects of the learning communities. He was always helping and counseling students and found fun and creative ways to engage them in activities that helped boost their esteem. Students for generations played his “Line Game” at recess and his efforts helped instill confidence in all of his students. Mr. Davenport went on to serve as a Teaching-Assistant Principal where he continued to work with his students, but also was able to share his leadership skills with staff throughout the school. He retired in 2008 and students who had him in class still talk about the impact he had on them many years ago.

Ms. Marie Kurmin’s impact on the MPSD has been seen through her countless volunteer efforts in and around the district over the past twenty years. With her three children matriculating through the Marshfield schools, Ms. Kurmin took it upon herself to take on roles in the PTO’s of the Eames Way School, Furnace Brook Middle School and Marshfield High School. She served

for a number of years on the Marshfield Friends of Music and continues to serve on the GradeNite Live Committee. Over the past 10 years, she has been a key member of the Marshfield Education Foundation, where she currently chairs the Foundation's Grants Committee. Her pride and joy though is her involvement in helping lead (along with Ms. Joan Pozerski) the "We Are Marshfield Project". This annual effort brings hundreds of MHS seniors together with adult volunteers to take on refurbishing projects around the town in late April. While it is a great day for the seniors, the adult volunteers get just as much out of it and this special day would not have the impact it currently has, without the efforts of Ms. Kurmin. When you ask those who know Ms. Kurmin, the first thing they will say is that she is always ready to help and will never say no when it comes to projects that help the students and staff of the MPSD. Her efforts have been recognized in the past, as she was awarded the Marshfield Citizen of the Year in 2015.

In the fall of 2017, the Marshfield School Committee voted on the creation of the Wall of Honor, to "foster pride in our system through recognition of individual achievement of former students, teachers, coaches/advisors, administrators, school committee members and friends of the Marshfield Public Schools."

While all of the nominees brought forth were tremendous individuals, who made positive impacts on the school community over the years, the Search Committee selected three who they felt best fit criteria for the Wall of Honor and who scored the highest on their rubric. All nominees who were not selected this year will continue to be considered by the MPSD Wall of Honor Subcommittee for up to four years from the date of their initial nomination.

The Subcommittee consists of two parents, two school committee members, two teachers, a school principal and the Superintendent. They will be working with volunteers over the next few months on setting up the induction ceremony.
