



JETA dot BIZness June 2020

The Year in Review

It was bad, it could have been worse, and we made it better than it should have been.

We are losing three teachers to retirement this year: Elbridge music teacher Marisa Fagliarone and PE teachers Mike and Pat Smart. The first time I ever met Marisa, I tried turning pages for her while she was accompanying at a musical rehearsal. She told me after a few minutes that she'd be better off doing it herself. I decided at that moment that I really liked her, and nothing ever proved me wrong. As for Mike and Pat, someone told me once that they played guard together on their college football team, and what's a better metaphor for their quiet, solid, yet hilarious way that they've made things possible over the years? As I get it, mostly from Mike explaining it to me over the years, a guard is an anchor and a pivot. They protect but also make other things happen while getting little of the glory for themselves. Pat's work with Natalie as a Building Rep at Elbridge has made it a independent, autonomous unit, while Mike's work at the High School has resulted in a virtual golden age of labor peace there.

I'm going to miss picking up football tips from Mike and discussing the merits and flaws of our insulin pumps, which isn't a conversation you can have with just anyone. It makes me sad to think about losing these three, even though Mike is a Jets fan, so I've asked some other people to say a few nice things.

Mike,

I started my career with you and will never forget our time together. Our talks were often life lessons not just teacher chats. I enjoyed teaching with you and discussing sports with you. Our basketball talks with various zone defenses were inspirational!! You had such an impact on the students at Jordan Elbridge and you were always a positive role model. I will miss working with you and wish you nothing but happiness in your retirement!!

Leslie Ahern

Marisa...I will miss working with you so much! As I enter my 20th year at Elbridge, it will be so strange to not have you teaching my kiddos Music! Your enthusiasm and love of music brought such joy to the little ones! I will especially miss the adorable kindergarten concerts! I have really enjoyed working together, chatting together and the occasional summer coffee! Please stay in touch and enjoy your much-earned retirement! Love, Jen Gryzlo

Pat... what can I say? You have been at Elbridge since I started and have always been such a positive role model for both students and teachers alike. I will always admire the positive way you interacted with the students whether they were 4 or 10 years old. Over the years I've learned so much from you...even though I may have only seen you for a few minutes a day. In the lunchroom or the gym, you had such a way with discipline yet could be kind and positive. You will be sorely missed at Elbridge Elementary for sure. Your legacy as one of the best teachers at Elbridge will always live on! I will miss chatting about lacrosse and coaching stuff with you! Enjoy your retirement and your family!

Love, Jen Gryzlo

Marisa,

The music at Elbridge will not be the same without you. Congratulations and happy retirement! We will miss you!

Ryan


Marisa,

My bella Italian sister! You must be so incredibly excited (and maybe even a bit nervous?) to begin this new chapter in your life. You have given your heart and soul to thousands-yes, THOUSANDS of elementary students over the past 30 years. The strength of our music programs at the middle school and high school, and the amount of statewide music teachers that have hailed from JE, is a tribute to you and the outstanding foundation you've given these students. Even through the most challenging of times, some personal and some work related, you have been a consummate professional. The kids could always count on your smiling face to bring the joy of singing and making music into their classroom. And of course, I personally appreciate all of your awesome piano skills and the accompanying you've done for my students throughout the years. We certainly spent a lot of musicals and NYSSMA solo festivals together! Your kindness, compassion and subtle sense of humor made working together so easy and fun. And don't worry, I will still be calling you to help out. This pandemic and long-distance learning has been an awful way to end such a beautiful career, but maybe it's a blessing in disguise. It probably saved you from some very hard good-byes and mascara melt-downs! I wish you nothing but the best that life has to offer. You deserve it! "Vive bene, Ridi spesso and Ama molto!"

Denise 

Mike-

Congratulations on your retirement! You are probably one of only a few people who have been at JEHS as long as me! And also like me, you are one of those people who spent more hours after school with your students than actually at home. I'm sure you will enjoy your new found freedom. But just maybe...maybe you will think about the good old times of our special area team meetings in the art room. I will definitely miss seeing you down on our side of the building and saying hello. Enjoy the next stage of your life! I hope someday you get to see that real Broadway show!

Denise 

To all of our retirees. Mike, Pat and Marisa, it has been such a pleasure to work with all of you over these long years at JE. Thank you for all of the years of hard work, dedication, and service to our students. As colleagues, it has been a wonderful experience getting the opportunity to work with all of you. What a great thing for me to work in all of the buildings and see all of you in action so that I could develop a true appreciation for all that you have accomplished in your years here.

For Mike and Pat, I know it must be bitter-sweet, knowing that your time at JE is coming to an end after you have grown up here and then spent a life's work in service to the district you love. Your impact and positive contribution to the development of so many young lives will be a lasting tribute that will not be forgotten. I know how important sports and fitness are to so many of our young boys and girls and that athletics can change lives profoundly. You truly have helped raise a generation of strong, confident future leaders and all-around better people. The skills learned are too numerous to count, commitment, dedication, leadership, teamwork, pride, confidence, humility and so much more all thanks to the magic of sports and fitness. I am left in awe, so much depends on these important lessons that you have taught. Thank you for all you have done. I also know that you will be very happy to take some time for yourselves and to spend quality time with your families. These wonderful families I feel are also part of my family as well because I have always been so welcomed and accepted by them. Mike and Mindy and

Pat and Robin, I look forward to seeing you around at all the old familiar places, like from my yard as I do my yard work and Pat comes to mow aunt Dorothy's lawn and out and about especially on the track and maybe at the gym-still, I hope... Take care and enjoy some rest and relaxation that is so well deserved!

Marisa, as a newbie -again- at the Elementary school, I have felt so wonderfully welcomed by you and your kindness. Thank you for your devotion and commitment to introducing the children to music, one of the greatest gifts we can give our students. They will miss you terribly and will always have fond memories of their first years learning about the glory and power of music in our lives. The power to move hearts, minds, and maybe even mountains. You have given them the keys to a priceless treasure that no one will ever be able to take away from them. What an accomplishment to know that your life's career choice had such meaning and impact on the world and opened a door of discovery for so many young musicians. Thank You for that and enjoy a well-deserved chance to do something just for you. Keep whistling a happy tune and jangling that tambourine to the rhythm of life as it leads you into a new era of joyful noise.

Jen Weaver

Dear Pat,

I am thankful to have worked all these years with you and call you my friend. Watching you with the children has always been a gift, but seeing how special you made my own children feel while under your care was cherished. You have touched so many lives, Pat. I hope you welcome this retirement with open arms and enjoy every moment of it. You certainly have earned it!!

Dear Marisa,

I have enjoyed working with for all of these years! I could never thank you enough for taking the extra time you did to help me with those plays we used to do. I wish you so much happiness on your retirement and hope you are able to enjoy every ounce of it!

Dear Kathy,

The kindness you showed me and instant friendship we developed the year I moved to third will stay with me forever. Watching you teach was a gift in itself. You are an inspiration to so many and certainly have been to me. I love you, my friend and am so excited for your next adventure.

Jen Mauro

It will be an unusual start to the new school year in September. Maybe not for the first reason you're thinking, but for Elbridge Elementary staff and students, it will be because Mr. Smart won't be waiting on the sidewalk or in front of the gymnasium with a big smile to greet the year's elementary students. Instead, he'll have a big smile on his face, but will be from a tree stand or a boat with a fishing rod in his hands. After dedicating XX years to the JE school district as a physical education teacher, coach and building representative for JETA, Pat will be able to enjoy a well deserved retirement.

I've had the privilege of working alongside of Pat as a colleague and as a building rep. Pat was even on the interview committee when I first applied to JE 19 years ago. Luckily, I chose a baseball themed unit to talk about during the interview.

Pat is one of the reasons I'm proud to be part of the JE family. He embodies the passion and the love of teaching that we all aspire to. He has taught and coached young minds to reach their fullest potential and to dig deep to be leaders on and off the field. He does so with humor and an easy going manner that children can't help but to be drawn to. PE with Mr. Smart has always been the students' favorite class of the day for these reasons.

Pat has also been a trusted friend to his colleagues. He has listened to and advocated for our JETA members in his role as a union representative and is well-respected by administration. I've learned a lot from him and will miss him next year.

Pat, you will be missed by our staff and students alike. On behalf of the JE staff, we wish you the very best in your retirement. You've earned it!

Natalie

News & Blues

At the annual membership meeting on June 9th, we had a record turnout. The Executive Committee approved a budget with no dues increase and about \$600 in cuts due to decreasing membership. Ben presented a contract that passed by a vote of 78-0 that rolls over the contract that we have from 2017-2020. It provides for a 2.8% pay raise for teachers and 5.75% for nurses.

An opposed slate was elected for two-year terms for the JETA Executive Committee, with Ben, Dave, Leo, and Jen returning to their prior positions. Natalie and newcomer Lisa Fellows will be serving as Elbridge reps, Ben Allio returns to represent JEDIS, Drew Deapo (Thunder) is joined by newcomer Ryan Sparkes (who will be going by the codename RAIN) at the Middle School, and Ashley Felice joins Emily Rumpf to storm the halls of the High School. Zach Moser is going to take over for Ryan's position as new member coordinator and public relations expert.

Thanks to Leo for filling in last year at the Middle School and Mike and Pat for their reliable years as building reps!

One of the cuts was to the Corporate Challenge budget. It appears as though JP Morgan Chase has sold off their interest in the race to somebody who is promising that the race in the fall will be just as good. We're going to sit this year's out unless there's some incredible demand in the fall that we just don't see yet and instead devote our energy to training for a comeback in 2021. Or something like that.

The JETA contract calls for the final paycheck of the year to be paid on the last day of school for teachers. With this year's strange schedule, that would have resulted in us being paid on consecutive days. While that had a certain appeal, Ben and I instead chose to adopt a policy we're going to call "not being jerks to Donna Snyder." The final paycheck will come out on June 25.

If you're like me (and for your sake, I hope you're not) you're probably tired of hearing what a great job you've done this year. We've done the impossible, and we've done it without boasting or showboating. People who were here for the rollout of Common Core may remember the phrase "building the plane while we were flying it". Having done that once upon a time, this year, we pulled an Apollo 13.

Rest up,
because next
year is going to
be even
weirder.

Have a great summer.



Thank You

During these unprecedented times and in the face of incredible adversity, each of you continue to sacrifice and dedicate yourselves to our children, our families and our communities.

We thank all of the educators, school-related professionals, nurses and other health care workers who continue to demonstrate their unwavering compassion, dedication and commitment to our communities on a daily basis.

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