

Sheila Navo

Sheila Navo, born and raised in a quaint town in northern New York, embarked on a journey of nurturing young minds and fostering a strong sense of community throughout her life. Graduating from the State University of New York College at Oswego in 1968, she set out on a path that would shape countless lives and leave an indelible mark on the field of education.

Her professional journey began in Rochester, NY, and later led her to Middletown, R.I., where she honed her skills as an educator. It was during this time that she met Mike, her husband, and together they ventured to Missouri, where they laid down roots and started a family.

After devoting her early years to raising her children, Sheila felt a calling to return to the classroom. In 1987, she found herself at the helm of a kindergarten classroom at House Springs Elementary, where she embraced the opportunity to guide young learners through their first steps into the world of education. Sheila viewed her role not only as a teacher but also as a facilitator of safety, excitement, and fun in the learning process.

Throughout her tenure at House Springs Elementary, Sheila cherished the camaraderie and support of her colleagues, whom she fondly refers to as family. Together, they created an environment where collaboration and growth flourished, enriching both students and educators alike.

Sheila's dedication to her craft did not go unnoticed, as evidenced by the numerous awards she received during her teaching career, including the prestigious Monsanto Science Award, the Emerson Excellence Award, an Apple Award, and the Walmart Teacher of the Year Award. These accolades are a testament to her unwavering commitment to excellence in education.

Beyond her professional achievements, Sheila holds her family closest to her heart. Her husband, Mike, has been a steadfast source of support and encouragement. While her husband, Mike, continues to foster her love for golf, her son, Kevin, and daughter-in-law, Tara, along with their children, live locally. In fact, all of their children are Northwest graduates just like their parents and aunt! Similarly, her daughter, Amy, carries on the family's legacy of education as a teacher in the Northwest District. Sheila finds boundless joy and inspiration in her grandchildren and great-grandchild; who infuse her life with youthful energy, lots of laughter and endless love.

Even in retirement, Sheila's passion for education remains undiminished. She continues to support the staff at House Springs Elementary through volunteering and assisting with various projects, demonstrating her enduring dedication to the school community.

As Sheila reflects on her life's journey, she remains grateful for the opportunities she's had to make a difference in the lives of others. Her unwavering belief in the potential of every child and her commitment to fostering a love of learning serve as an inspiration to all who have had the privilege of knowing her. Sheila Navo's legacy is not just one of academic achievement but also of compassion, kindness, and a profound belief in the power of education to transform lives.

Please help us welcome Sheila Navo as a Class of 2024 Northwest Alumni Distinguished Educator Hall of Fame Recipient!