

Sandra Nahlik Wynn

Sandy was born on October 12, 1942 as the only child of Arthur and Frances Nahlik and was raised on the Nahlik Homestead, which she still owns. She married Jim Wynn in 1969 and they have 3 children; Christopher (Rasee) Wynn, Sarah (Steve) Brown, Katie (Marc) Gibson and 5 grandchildren: Lexi Wynn, Josie and Drew Brown, and Brock and Bailey Gibson.

Sandy's elementary education started at St. Anthony's in High Ridge (1st-7th grade), and finished at St. John's (8th Grade). She attended Northwest High School from 1958-1962 and then went onto college at Southeast Missouri State University from 1962-1966, where she received her Bachelor's Degree in Vocational Home Economics. Finally, she added a Master's Degree in 1996 from Southwest Baptist University and added completed 30 additional graduate hours before retiring in 2002.

Sandy's teaching career started at North Jefferson Middle and House Springs Middle (half day at each school) from 1966 – 1973. She then substitute taught for a few years while being a stay-at-home mom. In 1980, Sandy started teaching again at Northwest High School until her retirement in 2002. However, she was not ready to completely give up the classroom and continued to substitute teach until 2022.

Because she always taught an elective class, Sandy was lucky that most of her students chose to be in her classroom which made teaching enjoyable. Because of societal changes through the years, Home Economics became Family and Consumer Sciences. That meant that content of classes would change and keeping up to date was important. Some of the students favorite projects included planning a wedding, creating their egg or flour baby, deciding what their project with the preschoolers would be, and taking home the electronic baby for a night.

Hearing from former students is always a delight for Sandy. Many have fun stories and memories about their time at Northwest just like she does. Hers include memories of special teachers like Miss Joann (Cartwright) Belz, Mr. Paul Crader, Mrs. Dorothy Friday, and Mrs. Trudie (Land) Garrett. She also has memories of football and basketball games where school spirit was out of sight and being a part of our Junior and Senior plays. (In one play, Sandy was Aunt Fern to one our inductees here tonight).

Sandy was honored to receive the District's Apple Award in 1992. In 2002, a student nominated her for inclusion in Who's Who Among American Teachers. Sandy is also a Golden Violet recipient from her sorority, Sigma Sigma Sigma. She was also honored to serve as Grand Marshal of NHS Homecoming for 2 years.

During Sandy's years at Northwest, she sponsored TREND, The All-Night Graduation Party, and Family, Career and Community Leader of America. She served as the District's Coordinator of Drug Free Education and Coordinator of Character Education for 3 years.

Sandy was always ready to serve on any committee that she felt would benefit NHS students. Those include: District Curriculum Advisory, Family and Consumer Sciences Curriculum, District Health Curriculum, Attendance Policy, Committee to Develop District Gifted Program, Winc Team, Northwestival and organized pregnancy support group with Jeanne Rothermel.

Currently, Sandy is a member of the Jefferson County Retired National Education Association and Delta Kappa Gamma Professional Sorority. She has served as the Secretary for the NHS Alumni Association for 2 years.

Sandy feels her life has been enriched by the students and staff of NHS. She has always been proud to be a NHS graduate and then staff member...she bleeds blue. She has maintained friendships with many of the staff she worked with and made friends with former students.

The Northwest Alumni Association would like to welcome Sandra Nahlik Wynn into the Class of 2023 Distinguished Educator Hall of Fame.