

Comet Inspiring Leaders

Ms. Jane Matthews Cushing- 5th- 8th Grade Resource Teacher



Educational Background: My career in education began in 1980 right out of Quincy College/University. My undergraduate degree was in Elementary Education/Special Education. My first five years I taught self-contained special education classes at different schools in Peoria Public Schools. My educational career continued through spring of 2014 as a kindergarten, first grade teacher, assistant principal, principal and curriculum department resource support. During this time I continued my education at Illinois State University and obtained a master's degree in curriculum and instruction, and obtained an administrative license completing the appropriate coursework.

My second career at Bradley University began in the fall of 2014 as the Clinical Coordinator and Licensure Officer. Placement of field experiences and student teaching for education students were some of my responsibilities. Licensing new teachers and counselors was also part of my responsibilities. In June of 2020, I retired from Bradley University.

My favorite teacher was: my biology teacher in high school. He was a hands-on teacher who set goals for his students and supported them to reach their goals. I recall becoming more confident and independent with the support of this teacher.

Why I teach in a Catholic School: I began my elementary education in first grade at St. Cecilia grade school. I attended two other schools in the Peoria Diocese, St. Philomena and St. Bernards. I continued my catholic education at Academy of our Lady/Spalding Institute for high school and Quincy College/University to receive my undergraduate degree. Catholic education is very important to me. My own children attended St. Mark and Peoria Notre Dame. It gave my family a foundation in the Catholic church. It is important to me as an educator we provide students with the same catholic education that I received and my children.

Who inspires you: Anyone who has great character, is loyal and trustworthy. My mother and father both had these characteristics. My father was a basketball coach for Bergan High School (former Peoria Notre Dame) and valued a catholic education. My mother went back to school at fifty years of age to become a speech pathologist. I've always admired her determination.

Hobbies/Interests: My interests are my six grandchildren. It is the greatest joy in my life. When I am not with Bridget, Ally, Joey, Mikey, Sophie, and Lucy, I love to read books and I am in a Book Club with retired administrators in the Peoria County area.

Dream meal: My dream meal is a really good pizza.

Outside of school I: love to travel and have taken some girl trips with my lifelong friends from high school at Academy of our Lady/Spalding Institute. I also travel to Pearl River, New York to visit my daughter, son in law, and three granddaughters several times a year.