

Local Schools



[TOP](#)

John Stephens Retires From Dexter

MAY 01ST 2016 BY DEE LOFLIN

John Stephens Retires From Dexter

Dexter, Missouri - The annual CTA Retirement Tea was held on Thursday, April 28th with seven teachers retiring from Dexter Public Schools. In all, these seven teachers will end their teaching career with 193 years of service. Teachers honored were Sherry Chance, June Lawrence, Ramona Lemons, Shannon Putnam, John Stephens, Shari Stickles, and Debra Thrower. (Each teacher will have their own article and a description of their years of service in education).

John Stephens began his teaching career in 1986 at Caruthersville, Missouri teaching 8th Grade English and coaching football and track. After teaching in Caruthersville for 12 years, Mr. Stephens received the opportunity to move to his hometown of Dexter and teach the overflow English classes of 6th, 7th, and 8th grades.

During his tenure at Dexter, he taught High School English, a dramatic reading/literature class, coached Middle School football and track, then settled into 8th grade English.

Other than teaching and coaching Mr. Stephens is known for being the author of over 17 Madrigal Scripts that were written specifically for performances at madrigal dinners by the Dexter High School and Middle School choirs.

He retires with 30 career years of teaching experience.

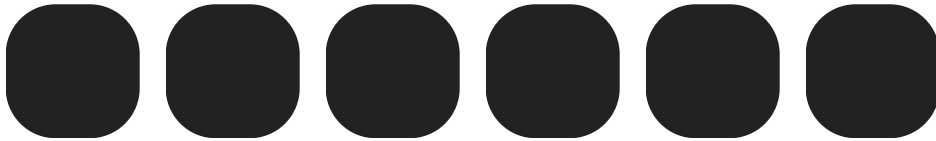
"The Dexter Public Schools commend them for their dedication and service to educating all the students they have come in contact with over the many years," commented Rick Williams, Dexter School Board President. "We appreciate their

service."

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Shannon Putnam Honored at Annual Retirement Tea

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Shannon Putnam began her career in August of 1986 where she began her work with the Dexter Public Schools as a Title 1 Remedial Reading Teacher's Aide and worked with migrant families. In 1988, she and her husband moved to Italy where he was stationed in the military.

Mrs. Putnam returned to Dexter in 1989, where she worked with Extended Day Kindergarten. The following year she was hired as a First Grade Teacher at Southwest Elementary. She will retire with 28 years teaching in the Dexter Public School District.

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Ramona Lemons Retires from Dexter School District

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Ramona Lemons began her teaching career in 1984 at Nell Holcomb as an aide/reading teacher. After a year of teaching she accepted the position as the Business Teacher at the Puxico School District where she taught for eight years when she made the decision to be a stay-at-home mother.

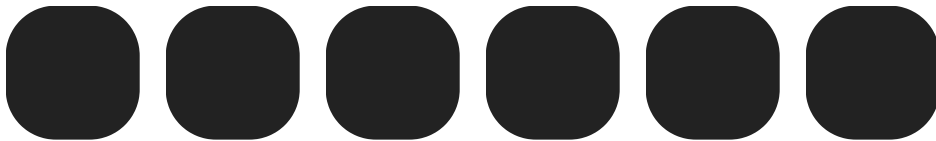
During the next six years, she was the Drug Grant Coordinator, a Kindergarten Music Teacher, and substitute teacher for Dexter Public Schools. In 1999, she was hired as the Business Teacher at Dexter High School. In all, Mrs. Lemons has contributed 32 career years to service education.

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June Lawrence, Elementary Art Teacher, Retires From Dexter

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In 1986, **June Lawrence** was hired to teach K-12th grade Art at Oran School District where she taught for 12 years.

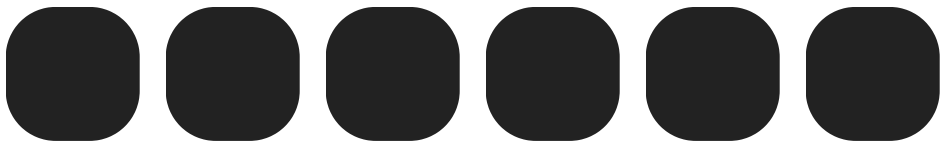
June then accepted the K-8th grade Art position in her hometown of Bloomfield, Missouri in 1994 where she taught for one year before leaving in 1995 to come to the Dexter Public Schools. She has been the Elementary Art Instructor for the past 21 years. She is retiring with 30 career years as an Art educator.

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Sherry Chance Retires from T.S. Hill Middle School

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Sherry Chance began teaching with the Dexter Public Schools in January of 1998. Se was hired to teach 6th and 7th grade reading at T.S. Hill Middle School. The following year, she had the privilege of creating curriculum for an elective, 8th Grade Literature.

After six years of teaching Reading, in 2005 she moved to the English Department to teach 8th grade English.

Sherry is ending her teaching career teaching 7th grade Social Studies. All of her 18 1/2 years of teaching has been in the classroom at T.S. Hill Middle School.

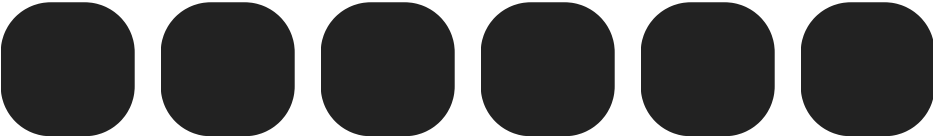
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