



Jean Carrigan Memorial Endowment Scholarship

*"It is the supreme art of the teacher
to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."*

Albert Einstein

Jean Carrigan taught young children for over thirty years inspiring and encouraging all of her students to seek out and discover their own personal best, while always being respectful of different cultures and new experiences. She began her career by teaching first grade in Norwood, Massachusetts. Jean left teaching in 1960 to raise her family. After moving to Westfield in 1973, she returned to teaching in the Westfield Public Schools working at Abner Gibbs, Southampton Road, Juniper Park, Franklin Avenue, and Highland. Jean was at Highland Elementary School when she retired in 1999, after over 20 years of teaching in the Westfield Public Schools.

Jean received her Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Boston State Teachers College in 1955. Throughout her career as a teacher, she was devoted to developing new curriculum and linking formal education with hands on learning experiences for all learners. Jean believed that education would provide individuals with new options for their own future and a greater awareness of the world around them. Throughout her life she instilled this belief in others through her positive and nurturing encouragement by always seeing the positive side of situations. She would often remark, "If things seem bad or are unclear, wait a day and they will look better tomorrow."

Jean also recognized that education was a profession that required desire and dedication, and when an individual showed these traits, they should be nurtured. Two of her proudest moments were seeing her daughter and granddaughter graduate from college and choose a career in education.

This Memorial Endowment in her name was established by her children shortly after Jean passed away in January 2017. Patricia, Bill and Mark Carrigan wanted to honor her lifelong devotion to learning and the joy this can bring to one's life, and to create a legacy of opportunity for future generations in the pursuit of higher education possibilities.

Written by: Patricia, Bill and Mark Carrigan
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