



Betsey (Boardman) Asrican Memorial Endowment Scholarship

Betsey (Boardman) Asrican was a lifelong educator, affectionately known as “Mrs. A.” to countless students and their parents. She was born and raised in Westfield, MA, and graduated from Westfield High School in 1966. She received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1970, and earned her master’s degree in Special Education from Boston College in 1971. After living and working in both California and Michigan, she returned to Westfield in 1981 with her husband, Stephen, to raise their family in her own childhood home and began working in the Westfield Public School system.

Betsey was a truly caring and innovative educator. She started her career in Special Education, working to establish integrated public school programs for autistic and special needs children. After many years in Special Education, she transitioned to elementary education, and was known for applying new teaching methods in her classrooms. She loved her time teaching at Southampton Road Elementary School, and was particularly devoted to Papermill Elementary School where she taught in first, second and third grades for many years before serving as school principal from 2001 to 2006. After retiring to North Carolina, she continued part-time work as a long-term substitute teacher.

Betsey was known for her welcoming smile, her boisterous laugh and curly red hair. Her classroom was always a joyful place filled with music, laughter and activity. She had tremendous compassion for her students and cherished the friendships she built with her co-workers, many of whom became lifelong friends.

This Memorial Endowment with CSF Westfield Dollars for Scholars was established by her children, Brent, Jessica and Kristen, after Betsey passed away in October 2021, as a way to honor her lifelong devotion to education and to provide greater opportunities for Westfield students.

Written by her children: Brent Asrican, Jessica Gentilli & Kristen Amaral
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