

Denise Pape's Retirement Message



GIBSON
Elementary
School

I have made the decision official and have turned in my intent-to-retire paperwork. They say you will know when the time is right. I believe that is true. I have been blessed to spend most of my career in Cedar Rapids as a teacher, facilitator, and principal. After 34 years in education, I am ready to start the next chapter in life.

During my lengthy educational career, it has been the wonderful students, parents and caring colleagues that have kept me passionate about my work. My focus on providing an enriching student experience has been on the forefront of my efforts.

I have been privileged to work with so many people over the course of my career. I started my career in Wall Lake, Iowa where I taught fifth grade. I got married and moved to Cedar Rapids and started at Taylor Elementary in 1989 where I was a teacher, facilitator, and principal. I moved to Cleveland Elementary in 2002 and was there as principal for 17 years. I had the opportunity to come to Viola Gibson late in my career and am grateful that I have been able to spend my last years here. During all of my experiences I have been blessed to have built relationships that I will cherish forever.

I have so much to get finished yet before June 30th and am committed to going out on top with the same passion I had when I first started back in 1988. Thank you to all the students, staff, families and colleagues who have made this the best job ever.