



Reflecting back on 36 years of teaching is surreal. I knew that I found my home when I got the job at Westonka and that's why I stayed for 20 years.

The students, families, staff and community from this small town are amazing. I took the job of increasing skills and showing growth very seriously. Because of this, I may not have been anyone's favorite teacher, but I know that I taught hundreds of students to read (whether they wanted to or not!) A skill they will use for a lifetime. I also helped hundreds of students and their families navigate the special education world.

I want to especially thank my very first team: Joie Rogers, Lori Knauf, Becky Burgess, (retired: Candy Shelso-Wells and Lona Denima). We laughed (and cried) together through many years of ups, downs, changes and increasingly difficult situations. Their friendship means so much to me and will last my lifetime. There are so many more staff that have influenced my life as well from teachers, paras, custodial, kitchen and administration. (You know who you are!)

I am looking forward to what lies ahead for me. I plan to work part-time, garden, kayak, go for walks, RV, travel and see more of my family. I will always look back at the fond memories I have with you all with a smile on my face. Thanks for the memories!

LYNDA POLINGO