



Pam Allender – Hutchinson, KS

When Pam Allender was asked to state what her educational goals and teaching philosophy is, she responded by stating that “teaching is an opportunity to touch the next generation and is an enormous responsibility”. She continued by saying that she tries to have a “calm classroom where students feel safe and can work at their own level to make strong academic progress”. She also wants “each student to feel successful and kind.”

She earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Elementary Education from Fort Hays State University in 1986 and a Bachelor of Arts in Communication from FHSU the following year. She then received a Masters in Education degree in 1992 from Wichita State University. As a true educator, she has continued to take multiple courses after obtaining her degrees and especially enjoyed her trauma training.

Her teaching career started at Graber Elementary school in the Hutchinson Public School System. She was responsible for second grade students and subjects for 33 years. After retiring from public schools, she was offered a position at Holy Cross Catholic School. This Hutchinson school is part of the Wichita Diocese School District where she shares her talents with first graders.

Some of the awards given to Pam during College were being on the Dean’s Honor Roll every semester, being in “Who’s Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges” and a member of Mortar Board. While she was teaching for the Hutchinson School District, she was a “Davis Foundation Educator of the Year Finalist” in both 1995 and 1997 and the “Davis Foundation Educator of the Year” in 2010. She also earned the “Kaleidoscope Educator Award” in 2010.

While she was busy teaching for the Hutchinson school district she was also involved in the community. She actively served her church in several positions, including Vacation Bible School coordinator, teacher, and cook. She also served as the Nursery coordinator and Nursery Attendant. Her church called on her to teach Sunday School from preschool through upper elementary grades. On Wednesday nights she served as a Youth Group Leader, AWANA Activity Director, AWANA Teacher and cook for Wednesday nights. Her further extra duty activities included being involved with her children and their activities. Pam was even called upon to teach the swimming part of her son’s Boy Scouts’ Swimming Merit badge. An extra duty included having served on the committee that maintained the Graber Outdoor Classroom in which she taught science experiments and art. She also started the Graber Greats Program in which current students get to see role models from previous Graber classes. She also started the “Love Thy Neighbor” Program at Holy Cross Catholic School where she currently teaches.

Gary Price, Pam's former Superintendent, writes that Mrs. Allender "leaves a legacy of excellent teaching and positively touching many lives. Her work went beyond the classroom". These are some of the reasons we welcome her to the Kansas Teachers' Hall of Fame 2021 class.