



Rebecca Ellis – Hillsboro, KS

“In the constantly changing field of special education, I focus my educational goals on the frequent learning of new strategies that will benefit my students” writes Rebecca Ellis. She believes that “all classroom approaches hinge on the development of respect and responsibility.” With this approach she works to have her students be fully responsible for their own words, and actions and learn to have respect for themselves and others.

Rebecca Ellis began her educating career as a substitute for USD 280 and USD 281 in 1978. She then received a BS degree in Music Education in December of 1990 from Fort Hays State University. She earned her MS Degree in Special Education in 1992, also from FHSU. She also earned a Cross-Categorical Endorsement in 1996 at FHSU as well as significant professional growth activities from 1997 through 2019.

Her teaching experiences include being a K-12 Special Education teacher in Morland, KS from 1992 through 1996 and 4-12 Instrumental Music and 9-12 Vocal Music from 1999 to 2001. She also works for the Northwest Kansas Educational Service Service Center of USD 602. From 1996 to 2001 as K-12 Interrelated Teacher in Morland, KS USD 280 and from 2001 to present as 7-12 Interrelated Teacher in Hill City, KS USD 281.

She is extremely busy and has many positions and honors outside of her classroom. She has sponsored the National Honor Society, Senior Class, and Graduation Coordinator for Morland. She was the Forensics Coach in Hill City. She was the KNEA Chairperson for both districts. Along with these duties she participated in the Graham County Extension Council as well as a Certified Volunteer Firefighter. At her church she served as organist, church camp dean, Sunday School teacher, youth group sponsor, Parish Council Chairperson, and Vacation Bible School Coordinator.

Ms. Ellis is the Owner/CEO of Goddard Place. It is a non-profit organization which develops and carries out programs for youth and families in the area. Some Goddard Place activities include: Summer Youth Camps, Faith-Based Teen Retreats, Fun Day for Elementary Students, Christmas Blessings Event, Low Ropes Challenge Course Training for Youth and Adults, Grief Retreat for Children, and Retreat for Children with Autism. Along with all of this list she has been a Sponsor of Methodist Youth Fellowship for 28 years and Coordinator of Vacation Bible School for over 40 years.”.

A colleague of Ms. Ellis, Laurita Burbach, says “Becky isn’t just an academic teacher. She provides information to students struggling with personal concerns, life skills, hygiene, and other topics. She is never afraid to teach the hard topics.” She continues by saying, “Becky teaches in every life area resulting in numerous students achieving more than they could envision while

becoming contributing adults. Teaching is the core of her being as evidenced through her additional teaching youth through a youth facility that she was instrumental in creating”.

These are a few of the reasons Rebecca Ellis is included in the KTHOF Class of 2020