

November 23, 2020

Andy,

I guess I have put off the finality of officially declaring my retirement long enough. After 35 years of service with the Celina School system, I feel that it is time for me to retire in 2021. I have had a wonderful journey with wonderful people. I feel like I have made a difference in most of my students' lives, and this has always been my goal.

I have served under outstanding leaders such as Glenn Hux, Ann Esselstein and Andy Mikesell. I am blessed to have learned about life and caring about others through these people. They have all given this building a solid foundation for educating and nurturing the children passing through. Our school system is fortunate to have had and have such leadership.

Andy, as you well know, there is a special group of people in this building who will always go above and beyond what is expected of them. They have true grit (John Wayne reference!) and will stand up for what they know is right for our students and for our school system. I respect each and every one of them for their knowledge and caring.

I will miss all of this...the kids, the teachers/friendship, and you! May Ann continue to guide you, as she had a gift of leadership. If ever you get stuck, just ask, What would Ann do? I am so proud of you as you lead us through one of the most difficult times in Education's history. Your ability to listen and problem solve is exemplary. Lead on, Captain!!!

I guess my retirement notice was not supposed to be quite this long; maybe a simple, "I'm retiring" would have sufficed. LOL However, I got a little emotional as this is so bittersweet for me. I will leave part of my heart at this school. My retirement will be effective as of May 31, 2021.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jackie Mertz". The signature is fluid and elegant, with a large initial "J" and a stylized "M".

Jackie Mertz