

# Mrs. Feuerbach looks forward to retirement

By Katelynn Toft

Mrs. Mary Feuerbach has been a lovely light to have in our hallways, teaching Family and Consumer Sciences classes to junior and senior high school students.

But after 18 years, she will be retiring at the end of the year.

"I really love to teach family consumer science," she said in an interview with the *Chronicles* commemorating her retirement. "It's practical and life skills."

Mrs. Feuerbach has always had a love of teaching and being with kids. She started off homeschooling her six children and then got her degree in elementary education. Later on when the position as an FCS teacher opened up at Durant High School, she jumped at it.

"The opportunity opened up here; I said, 'I will do that,' and I don't regret it one bit," she said.

Durant has been blessed to have Mrs. Feuerbach and her family in our community, all starting with her mother, Beulah Jensen Meinert, who taught at Durant for many years. Eventually, Mrs. Feuerbach entered the doors of Durant. As a student, she participated in every sport and in plays, speech, and choir.

"I enjoyed all of that," she said. "One particular moment, I couldn't really say. Just all of it put together, the opportunities that I had to do extracurricular activities," she said about her time in high school.

Years later, Mrs. Feuerbach had the pleasure of teaching her own children

through high school. One particular moment she remembered was her daughter Elaina Feuerbach breaking Mrs. Feuerbach's record in the 100-meter dash for track.

"I set that record in 1973, and she broke it in 2010, so it was time," she said.

Mrs. Feuerbach's love for extracurricular activities has not left her as she continues to take on and lead many opportunities for students as the FCCLA sponsor. She also helps out in many of the school's events.

"I really enjoy interacting with the students, being able to joke with them, maybe have a lighthearted moment; I think that's just very important," she said.

During the *Chronicles* interview, she reminisced about many of her favorite moments teaching at Durant. The ones that stuck out to her the most were activities such as the Thanksgiving dinners and International Banquets her cooking classes put together for the teachers.

A few of her previous students now work in the Durant school, including staff members Ms. Tina Ralfs and Ms. Abby Holst. Both remember those experiences in her classes.

"I remember having a Thanksgiving feast where we got to partake and make a dish to share," said Ms. Ralfs.

"One of my favorite memories of her class was always cooking," said Ms. Holst.

Ms. Ralfs remembers Mrs. Feuerbach as a genuine, caring teacher.

"She is a kind and patient teacher," said Ms. Holst. "She shows compassion and love for others and makes sure everyone understands what needs done."

Mrs. Feuerbach enjoyed seeing the light bulb go on in students as they start understanding a new skill she had just taught.

She has also learned how important compassion is when working with her students.

"Sometimes you have to look beyond the outside and see maybe what they're

going through on the inside," she said.

Mrs. Feuerbach's husband, Bruce Feuerbach, spoke very highly of his wife's accomplishments.

"She puts in a lot of work after school, doing things like extracurricular activities, correcting papers, and does a lot of the grocery shopping [for FCS] on her own time," said Mr. Feuerbach.

Mr. Feuerbach, who will be retiring around the same time as Mrs. Feuerbach at the end of the school year, said they are looking forward to spending more time together and with their families.

Although Mrs. Feuerbach did have some concerns about retiring, for fear of who would take her place, she said it was one of the reasons she has stayed for so long.

"For the last few years, I have been telling students in my class, 'If you would like my job or want to be an FCS teacher, I know you would get the job.'"

Mrs. Feuerbach encourages students who are interested in pursuing a career in education to do it because there is such a shortage.

Thankfully, Mrs. Feuerbach has found her perfect replacement, someone she is sure will fit the job.

One of her previous students, Mrs. Hailey Houk, will be taking over the job as an FCS teacher. Mrs. Houk is currently an elementary school teacher at Durant but has taught in the high school wing as a science teacher as well.

Now Mr. and Mrs. Feuerbach are able to look forward to their retirement where they plan to travel and visit children and grandchildren. Mrs. Feuerbach wants to volunteer in pet shelters, read to children at the library, and continue with her love of gardening.

"I think we're looking forward to it," said Mr. Feuerbach. "It's not like we're leaving friends and family, but we will just be a little bit farther away. We still plan on being involved."



Photo by Mackenzie Oberlander

Mrs. Mary Feuerbach is retiring after 18 years of teaching at Durant High School.

## Durant juniors to take ACT tests free of charge

By Mayson Eddy

Durant juniors will take the ACT test free of charge March 28 for the third year in a row, according to Mrs. Maria Brown, director of instruction and innovation.

Mrs. Brown helped bring the ACT test to Durant three years ago during COVID-19.

The ACT is a standardized college entrance exam, and the school will be following very strict ACT testing guidelines, including no cell phones.

The test measures educational development in the areas of English, mathematics, reading, and science, according to Mrs. Brown.

Also, the ACT scores go on student transcripts and are used in determining admissions to universities and community

colleges. These scores are also used to determine eligibility for taking college classes.

Durant High School uses the scores students get on the test to help figure out where the curriculum needs to improve.

Durant does allow students to opt out of the test.

But Caden Meyer, a junior, stated that he would be taking the test even with the choice to opt out of it.

"If kids want to take the test, then it's good for them to be able to," said Meyer.

Maddie Utter, a junior, said that she also will not opt out of the test.

"If you get a good score on the one the school pays for, you don't have to pay for one outside of school or take time to do it on the weekend," said Utter.

Utter believes Durant should still

offer the test even if the University of Iowa and Iowa State now consider it as an optional test.

"The school should keep paying for it because even though some colleges don't require it, most schools do, so therefore most kids still need an ACT score."

According to Mrs. Kristy Badtram, high school counselor, the University of Iowa, Iowa State University, and University of Northern Iowa are now giving students the option to take the ACT test for admission.

If students takes the ACT, it will be included in their Regent Admission Index (RAI) score, which is a formula the universities use to determine which students they will accept for admission.

Students must receive a minimum

RAI score of 245.

If students don't take the ACT test, students will have to write an essay, and more emphasis will be placed on their high school GPA.

By not taking the test, it may take more time to get accepted into a university.

According to Mrs. Brown, there are many benefits to taking the ACT at school, including students can feel less stress by testing in a familiar place during a regular school day.

The test is accepted by all four-year colleges and universities in the U.S., and taking the test at school can prevent potential concerns about finding transportation to a testing center on the weekend.

Finally students can use their scores to apply for financial aid and scholarships.

## Bond From page 1

"My husband was much more vocal on that matter," said Mrs. Paper. "Gary would randomly ask customers if they were going to vote. He would then ask their opinion on the bond and share his feelings on why Durant needs this and how important it

is for our community to thrive."

Mr. Burnett explained how everything put into the bond was necessary for the school. He predicted that there will be another bond in the future.

"Our needs won't go away, and at

some point, there will be another bond referendum," Mr. Burnett said.

"We just came up a little bit short of the front of the rim. We had a last-second shot, and it just came up a little short."

He stated that the goal for the school is to always make things better for the kids and for the community.

"That goal will never change," said Mr. Burnett.

Junior Olivia Alpen feels disappointed because the people who voted no were only focused on the increase in their property taxes rather than the improvements that were needed for the school.

Those improvements included renovations to the middle school gym and the

auditorium.

"I feel like the people that voted no didn't do enough research, and all they saw was that their taxes were going to go up; they didn't think of the students. They didn't think about anything else other than the fact that they had to pay more money," said Alpen.

Alpen said the close vote count gives her hope.

"I feel like we shouldn't give up because with the percentage increase for the last bond to this one, we may have a chance of the next bond passing," said Alpen.

"We didn't need that many more yes votes for the bond to pass. That just goes to show that every one vote counts."

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