



**Dan Nickels**  
**Bus Driver**  
**Hired: 1995**

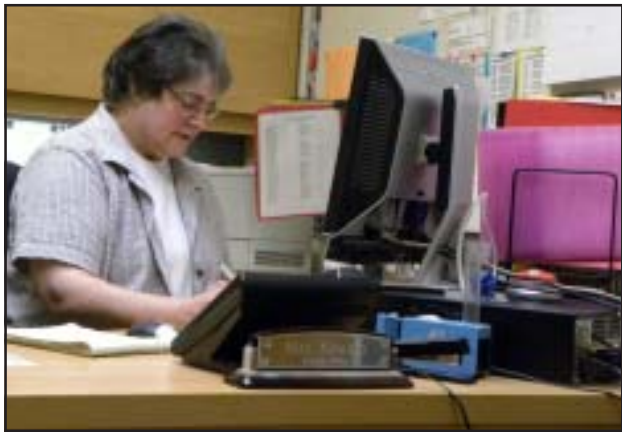
*"This is my second retirement - I retired from IBM previously. It's been a good 17 years. I've enjoyed the opportunity to work for the district. But now I have a third job - the family farm. I've got a lot to do."*



**Bob Devan**  
**OFA Guidance Counselor,**  
**OAMS Principal**  
**Hired: 1999**

*"Having spent 39 years in education in various capacities, I'd offer the following advice - Don't be afraid to challenge your students. It's extremely gratifying to observe them discover what they can do. Treat and speak to your students the way you would want someone to treat and speak to your children. And be fair, firm and consistent."*

## 2011 OA Retirees



**Anita Slocum**  
**Clerk/Typist, Athletics Office**  
**Hired: 1995**

*"Thank you to everyone for your kindness and support for the last 16 years. I have enjoyed my time working with the staff and students and I will miss everyone very much."*



**Nora Schumacher**  
**6th-Grade Social Studies**  
**Hired: 1991**



**Betsey Bacelli**  
**Food Service Supervisor**



**Eileen Mosteller**  
**OFA Teacher Aide**  
**Hired: 1979**

*"I've worked 33 years and I've loved every minute of it. I've enjoyed the people I've worked with, the kids, and everyone I've met through the school ... and ... I didn't want to cry ..."*



**Fran Tirinato**  
**OES Special Education Teacher**  
**Hired: 1991**

*"A job is something you have to do. A career is something you choose to do. I chose to teach and have loved every minute of it."*



**Randy Murray**  
**Auto Maintenance Mechanic**  
**Hired: 1978**

*"I've been in Owego Apalachin since kindergarten ... and I finally graduated. Thank you, to everyone who allowed me to stay in school all this time."*

**Reathea Woodburn**  
**OES 1st-Grade Teacher**  
**Hired: 1973**

*"Teaching, to me, has been a gift. In my 37 years, I believe I have opened many gifts. I have always been proud to say that I am a teacher at Owego Elementary School."*



**Dan Brink**  
**OFA Head Custodian**  
**Hired: 1994**

*"This is not easy. It's hard to put into a few words. Every day I went and opened the door, not knowing what exactly was headed my way. I would compare it to 15 years of television shows. The characters were amazing. Every year the cast would change, but the show didn't change much. There were a few dramas, and plenty of comedies, and I always had a chance to be part of a great show. It's an experience that will never be forgotten. Today, I enjoy going back and checking on the latest episode. It's really hard to describe - it's one of those things where you just had to be there." I was, and I loved it."*



**Sharon Van Housen**  
**Bus Monitor Aide**  
**Hired: 2002**

*"These have been the happiest 10 years of my life. I've loved the kids and the people I've worked with. Happiest 10 years ... and I mean that."*



**Darl Benjamin**  
**Food Service Driver**  
**Hired: 1995**

*"I've been here 15 years and have enjoyed every minute. The people are great to work with and I'll miss every one of them. But I've got more unfinished projects at home ... I'll be busy for a year, just on them."*



**Peggy Hellenga**  
**AES Reading Recovery Teacher**  
**Hired: 1971**

*"I have enjoyed my years of teaching at AES. During retirement I will be working for NYSUT's Education and Learning Trust as part of a cadre of teachers teaching teachers. In addition, retirement will give me the opportunity to spend time with my four grandchildren and to do some travelling."*



**Kathy Lawrence**  
**Art Teacher**  
**(OFA, OAMS, OES)**  
**Hired: 1980**



**Pat Russell**  
**Computer Operator**  
**Hired: 1987**

*"Twenty-four years ago, Carl Muldner had a vision as to how the OA school district should move forward with technology. I was blessed to have been chosen by Carl to help with that vision. I have met and worked with many wonderful people and have made life long friendships. But now it's time for family. To my grandchildren Kaitlin, Tyler, Troy and Gabriella - I'll meet you by the pool!"*



**Linda Ellis**  
**OFA Teacher Aide**  
**Hired: 2000**

*"There's never enough time to do all the nothing you want."  
- Bill Watterson  
Calvin and Hobbes*



**Marie Ward**  
**Clerk/Typist**  
**OFA Guidance**  
**Hired: 2001**

*"From Sidonie Gabrielle Colette: The true traveler is he who goes on foot, and even then, he sits down a lot of the time."*



**Donna Field**  
**OAMS Teacher Aide**      **Hired: 1995**

*"I'll really miss the kids. It's always about the kids."*



**Juanita Evaneck**  
**OFA Teacher Aide**  
**Hired: 1982**

*"I've had a lot of wonderful experiences, met a lot of wonderful people, made friends, and I've learned so much from the kids. They've changed my outlook on life. There's a fulfillment you get from working with children, watching them grow and progress."*