



Press Release

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Overbrook honors two pre-k teachers for 25 years of service

In 1986 Overbrook began a prekindergarten program with two teachers who were young and eager to work with 3- and 4-year-old students. Today, those same two teachers are still teaching pre-k students at Overbrook.

The school recently honored Ellen Herman and Angela Siefker for 25 years of service to Overbrook School with a luncheon. Principal Sister Marie Blanchette said they have each worked a total of more than 4000 days at Overbrook and their dedication and love for teaching has touched more than 800 families over the years.

The two teachers met at a Montessori training session in Memphis. Herman heard Overbrook was starting a pre-k program and jumped at the chance to be able to teach and share her faith simultaneously. Herman also saw it as a chance to give back to her alma mater. She graduated from Overbrook in 1968. She then recommended Siefker for the second position.

Together Siefker and Herman opened the Overbrook pre-k in 1986 and both have taught in the program ever since. They are opposites in terms of teaching styles but they have seamlessly lead hundreds of students into the kindergarten program together and managed to remain friends.

“I just know that God put me on earth to teach,” Siefker said. “I love what I’m doing; I love teaching.”

Herman has a similar outlook:

“I love Overbrook,” she said. “I have spent 38 years on this campus as either as a student, parent or a teacher and I still marvel at the beauty of the campus when I drive up the entry way every morning.”



“I feel so blessed to be a part of this school. I love starting my morning with prayers, getting a brief sermon daily on the gospel reading and ending the day with prayers. ... Seeing the way the sisters live their faith has had such an effect on me. I find I am much more accepting of my circumstances. I can find peace in just about everything around me. I have learned not to worry about things like I used to. I enjoy going to school every day. To have children walk into your room each morning full of wonder just waiting to see what you have to offer is so fulfilling.”

Overbrook School, which opened in 1936, is owned and operated by The Dominican Sisters of St. Cecilia Congregation. Overbrook is a co-educational, Catholic school for pre-k through eighth grade students where children grow in grace and knowledge. It was named a National Blue Ribbon School of Excellence by the U.S. Department of Education in the fall of 2010.

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