

A Western North Carolina native and career physical education specialist, Beverly Mood Wood made a profound impact on Henderson County's physical education program and the students she served through creative curriculum integration and mentoring.

Mrs. Wood began her teaching career in Buncombe County in 1966 before moving to Florida to teach and coach. In 1983 she returned to North Carolina with her husband and fellow Hall of Fame inductee, Rick Wood, to teach in Haywood County. Henderson County gained Mrs. Wood's expertise when she joined the staff of Edneyville Elementary in 1988 as their physical education specialist. She was named Edneyville Elementary Teacher of the Year in 1995-1996. In 1999 she became the first physical educator for the brand new Glenn C. Marlow Elementary School, where she remained until her retirement in 2007.

Former Glenn C. Marlow colleague, Elena Robertson, noted, "It was clear from the beginning that Mrs. Wood would be a leader, mentor, and calming force in the waves of uncertainty that can arise when opening a new school." Former student Bryan Vaughn was so impacted by Mrs. Wood's leadership in the classroom, that he became a physical educator. Many years later he had the opportunity to complete his student teaching with Mrs. Wood and eventually took over her position at Glenn C. Marlow. "Mrs. Wood is not only someone who spent many years teaching in Henderson County, she is also my hero, mentor, role model, friend and most importantly, my favorite teacher ever," writes Mr. Vaughn.

Mrs. Wood's had a "groundbreaking" approach to physical education, in that she incorporated curriculum into physical education classes; many of her methods are still being used today in P.E. classrooms. "[She] integrated subject matter into physical education classes years before that was expected," explains Ms. Robertson. Her development of the "Boost Up" program for kindergarten students incorporated gross and fine motor skill, visual and auditory skills and hand-eye coordination that helped many children advance developmentally.

Mrs. Wood took her creativity and innovation outside the classroom, taking Field Day to the next level and creating what her colleagues would call an "unforgettable experience" for the children and the community. She was also a "leader in organizing and supervising" the County's Outdoor Education program, for which she continues to participate in even after her retirement.

"Talented, resourceful, creative and caring, Beverly Wood has had a profound impact on her school by having a plan that provides resources, support and procedures to assist children, parents, and teachers to educat(e) the child to achieve their fullest potential," writes former Glenn C. Marlow principal Joe Tamer for a recommendation letter in May 2004. "She has devoted her life to uplifting and enriching the lives of others."