



JEFFERSON COUNTY BOARD OF DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES

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Release At Will

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Teachers Join School of Bright Promise

School of Bright
Promise
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STEUBENVILLE-Two teachers with a combined total of 34 years' experience in education have joined the Jefferson County School of Bright Promise to serve students with special needs.

Jefferson Regional
Spectrum Center
(740) 264-7176
Fax (740) 264-0399

Nannette Neary and Connie Parise became part of the staff this school year after years of serving in public and parochial schools.

Jeffco Production
Center
(740) 264-4608
Fax (740) 264-1810

Neary, a lifelong Steubenville resident, mostly taught primary school during her 24 years with the Diocese of Steubenville. She earned a degree in special education with a minor in elementary education through Franciscan University but spent many years working with typical classes. Over time, she opted to make a change.

Jeffco Training
Center
(740) 266-6167
Fax (740) 266-3839

"I guess through working with regular education, I wanted to work with special education. I looked on the School of Bright Promise's website and they were looking for an intervention specialist, so I applied," she said.

Community
Employment
Services
(740) 266-3840
Fax (740) 266-3839

The spot was taken, but soon another window opened with the retirement of another teacher this summer. Now, Neary said she is right where she is meant to be.

Service & Support
(740) 266-4291
Fax (740) 266-4293

"If I can make a difference on a daily basis for at least one of my students, then I feel like I've accomplished one of my goals."

Shaffer Plaza
(740) 264-7111
Fax (740) 266-2924

Parise, who has been an educator for nearly a decade, served as head of intervention at Indian Creek Middle School and was an eighth-grade intervention teacher. The Steubenville resident earned a bachelor's degree in graphic design from West Liberty State College (presently known as West Liberty University) and took time to raise a family before obtaining her master's degree in special education from Franciscan University. She said she was inspired to work with the School of Bright Promise and its caring staff.

Transportation
(740) 266-2923
Fax (740) 264-5977

"I've heard a lot of things about the School of Bright Promise. They are very considerate to the needs of special needs students," Parise said. "It's a very loving place for kids to be."

While she has primarily worked with middle school pupils, Parise currently instructs six preschool through first-grade students. The transition has been a challenge, but it is one she is eager to rise and meet.

"I really love my eighth graders, but it's a transition going back to the beginning. It is the most demanding but rewarding job I've ever had. The staff has been helpful and I love working here."

Principal Rachel Bodo welcomed the newest addition to the faculty and said they bring experience and positivity to their roles.

"I'm glad they were chosen. They are doing a fantastic job and have learned quickly. I'm very excited to have them on the staff."

Bodo said a reduction in class sizes sparked the need for another teacher, leaving six classes with roughly six students each. That change allows each pupil to have more attention as they learn. She noted that Neary and Parise also worked during the summer and attended in-service training sessions with the Watson Institute of Sewickley, Pa., to prepare for class.

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Teachers-2

“I think they are very thorough. They wanted to make sure they did everything correctly according to policies and procedures. Even though they have taught for many years, they are up to the challenge of learning and they are learning new things.”

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(Photo Cutline: Connie Parise and Nannette Neary joined the staff at the School of Bright Promise in Steubenville after a combined total of 34 years in public and parochial schools. Both teachers said they enjoy working with special needs students.)