

Why I Teach:

Rosanne Crowe

During her 17 years at Benchmark School, Rosanne Crowe has seen the power of collaboration first-hand and is excited to continue proving Aristotle's claim that "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts"—especially in Benchmark's Math Department.

Though Rosanne first started at Benchmark School as a substitute teacher in 1992, it was her time as a support teacher in the math department that

made her realize her passion for mathematics and desire to teach it exclusively. "Benchmark was teaching mathematics using a conceptual approach and engaging students in rich problem-solving activities," Rosanne said. "This was so different from the approach I had encountered at other schools, and I was eager to learn more about this innovative approach."

Rosanne has taught as a full-time head mathematics teacher since 1994 (excluding her leave of absence to raise her family from 2001 to 2007), until her 2015 promotion to the Head of the Math Department. Rosanne also serves as a mentor for middle school students, a supervisor in Benchmark Summer Camp's language arts program, and an advisor for the after-school Robotics Club.

Because she was fortunate to have caring and dedicated teachers, Rosanne said that she always knew that she wanted to be a teacher so she could have the same positive influence on the lives of children. Her passion for teaching mathematics, coupled with the numerous opportunities for professional development, are what has kept Rosanne at Benchmark for so many years. "As a teacher at Benchmark, I get to continuously learn, grow, and explore innovative methods to enhance instruction," she said.

In addition to fulfilling her passion for teaching mathematics, Rosanne said she has also really enjoyed mentoring middle school students. "I have been part of the mentoring program since its implementation," she said. "Even after many years, I am still amazed at the transformation of our students toward the end of their middle school years and how well they understand their strengths and challenges as learners." 



Tell us about yourself, Rosanne!

Where did you go to school? I went to Cardinal O'Hara High School, Villanova University (Bachelor of Arts), and West Chester University (Elementary Education Certification and a Master's in Elementary Education with a Concentration in Mathematics).

What is your favorite memory from your school years? The first day of high school, [because] there were so many activities and clubs to join.

What was your favorite subject when you were in school and why? Foreign languages. Growing up in a bilingual household (English and Italian), I developed an ear for languages. I studied Spanish and Italian in high school and college.

What teacher most influenced you? I had a strong connection with my second grade teacher Mrs. Boyle, who was a supportive and engaging teacher.

What is your favorite book? *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Favorite inspirational quote? "Our greatest glory is not in never failing, but in rising up every time we fail." -Ralph Waldo Emerson

What are your hobbies outside of Benchmark? Cooking, reading, and Sudoku puzzles

What is an interesting fact about you? I am happiest when I am in my kitchen baking. It brings back many fond memories of past family celebrations.

Tell us about your family. I live in a household of men whom I adore: my husband of 17 years and my two teenage boys, Ryan, 15 and Nicholas, 13. The men in my life have definitely increased my sports IQ!