

## **Joan Dow**

Ms. Dow began her career with the MPS in 2001 as a Substitute for elementary art/music. During her tenure she has held the positions of instructional aide, permanent building substitute and substitute teacher before beginning her career as a teacher at Cunningham Elementary. Over the years, Ms. Dow has also taught at Pierce and Collicot before moving to Glover as a grade 5 teacher in the co-taught classroom. In the co-taught, she worked her magic to help all of her students grow, learn, and thrive. During this school year, Ms. Dow was instrumental in providing our grade 4 and 5 students with their remote learning.

When Principal McDavitt asked about what is so awesome about Ms. Dow, her remote fourth grade students shared the following:

- “I gotta say what makes her so special is the special way she teaches. If we don’t get it, she has like 1000 other ways! I gotta say she does an awesome job at teaching Science. Must run in the family!”
- “We have had 3 different teachers and literally from the second day, she made it so welcoming for the Collicot students it was as if we were with her the whole time- she really embraced us and we felt like we were hers- she embraced us all and it felt immediate for all of us!”
- “Even though she doesn’t know it, she’s actually pretty funny!” and “Even when we don’t behave as well, she keeps her cool!”

But the best and most indicative of the magic of Ms. Dow is: “Ms. Dow stands out in a crowd because she allows us to be ourselves.”

Ms. McDavitt added that at the end of the year, many of the remote fifth graders returned to the building. One day, she happened to be chatting with some of her former students. When she got to one special fifth grader, the student welled up with tears. You see, the student felt comfortable and safe enough in the supportive remote environment Ms. Dow had created to share something about themselves that was truly life changing.

Ms. McDavitt stated that through the pandemic Ms. Dow tackled every challenge head-on, just like she always does. The impact Ms. Dow has had for countless Glover Kids is impossible to estimate but it is evident that she has left an indelible impression on all of them. Ms. Dow, we wish you happiness as you begin this new chapter of your life. We are truly grateful for the work you have done with the students, staff and parents/guardians of the MPS