

SPOTLIGHT ON:

ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL ANN BODNAR

Our reporter (Elizabeth Aaron) managed to catch up with our tireless Assistant Principal Ann Bodnar... here's the inside scoop!

Ms. Bodnar grew up not too far from Clinton Elementary and attended elementary school from K-2 at the Fielding School, which is now the home of our school district's administrative offices. Grades 3-5 were at Tuscan School, and she then attended Maplewood Middle School and Columbia High School. She attended Hartwick College and Kean University and received her master's degree in Educational Administration from the University of Scranton.

You may have already noticed that her favorite sports team is the New York Yankees, and she tells us that her favorite book is *Tuck Everlasting*. Her hobbies include photography and travel (check out some of her talent all over our school!) and spending time with her family and friends. Her most recent big trip was to Italy.

This year marks her 16th year working in our school district. She spent one year working as a paraprofessional at South Mountain and ten years as a fifth-grade Language Arts teacher at Clinton before moving on to work as assistant to Principal O'Neill for four years. Having completed her master's degree, she is now in her second year as our Assistant Principal.

If you could go anywhere in the world for a week, where would you go and why?

I would go to Africa. I have always wanted to go on a safari to see all the animals and to learn more about the culture.

What is the best piece of advice you've ever gotten?

My mom always told me to treat others the way I want to be treated. I try my best to do that every day.



Ann Bodnar caught in action - marching in the Earth Day Parade.

What do you like most about Clinton School?

I love the students. I learn so much from them everyday and if I am having a bad day they always make me smile. I am always so impressed by how hard they work, especially when something might not be easy for them.

Do you have any brothers or sisters?

I have an older sister, Kathleen, and a younger sister, Sarah.

What's your favorite way to spend a Saturday?

Watching my niece, Angela, and nephew, Vincent, play sports.

Describe your perfect day.

I'd be relaxing on the beach with a great book or going to Yankee Stadium to watch the Yankees win!

What's one thing people might be surprised to learn about you?

My mom was a substitute teacher for the district for 25 years. She would come home from school and tell me stories about her day. She loved teaching and inspired me to become a teacher.

Also, people might not know that I coached varsity softball at Columbia High School for 13 years.

What's your favorite thing about working with Principal O'Neill?

She is extremely creative and thinks outside the box. She has the biggest heart and truly cares for every single person in our building. She understands that the focus of a school should be its students and that is what motivates her to keep making Clinton School a more amazing place than it already is!

Then the phone rang, and it was back to work for Ms. Bodnar!