



Sue Salzsieder, Chilton Elementary & Middle School Library Media Specialist, was recognized as the WEMTA Professional of the Year at the Wisconsin Educational Media & Technology Association's spring conference, Many Choices, Many Voices, on April 1st at the Kalahari Convention Center in Wisconsin Dells. More than 500 Wisconsin library media and technology specialists, the state treasurer – Sarah Godlewski, and the state superintendent of schools - Carolyn Stanford Taylor were present to honor her at Monday's luncheon. The award is given to a WEMTA member who has demonstrated individual excellence in the library, media, or educational technology profession through service to students, teachers, and the community at the K-12 level. This award recognizes outstanding leadership and professionalism.

Ann Bartel, Chilton's Technology Integrator, nominated Mrs. Salzsieder with the following:

I nominate Sue Salzsieder for the WEMTA Professional of the Year Award.

I have worked with Sue for over thirty years. Sue displays a passion for the library, media, educational technology services, along with demonstrating a love of learning. She wants to make a difference in student's lives.

Sue demonstrates her dedication and compassion for students on a daily basis. She teaches information and digital literacy with making and coding skills to students during scheduled classes. She collaborates with staff to ensure students have what print and digital resources they need to become lifelong learners and contributing members of society. She has updated our library to become a 21st century learning commons with a well-utilized makerspace. Then, when the traditional 8:00-3:00 school day ends, Sue continues to make an impact on students, teachers and the community by creating and hosting MANY after school clubs and activities. It is because of these connections that Sue has formed strong relationships with students, staff, and the community.

Sue has been a member of the WEMTA organization for 36 years. She is also a member of ALA, AASL, and ISTE. These memberships show her dedication to organizations that support her continued thirst for knowledge. The following quote from her colleague, Chris Saukel describes Sue's contributions to the library, media, and educational technology profession - "Her career has been defined by her passion for all aspects of librarianship and willingness to grow, learn, and try out new ideas".

Sue has implemented the following programs which have instilled a love of reading, creating, coding, and learning in our students. I believe the most impressive part of this list is the fact that Sue not only does these activities every year, but she had done them for 33 years and continues to add more programs as students' needs change and evolve.

Create and Read Evenings - CARE began as Family Reading Night where students and families read and eat snacks once per month on the third Monday of the month. It has evolved into reading, eating, and creating a STEAM project together such as paper airplanes, glow in the dark nightlights, slime, trebuchets, Rubik's cubes mosaics, and 3Doodler ornaments.

November Read Aloud Month - Students read aloud to family & caregivers at home. Elementary classes are matched with middle school classes to read to one another throughout the month. We have 70% participation between our elementary & middle school students. A paperback book exchange is arranged during this month, along with a book character dress-up day, and a bookmark design contest.

Screen Free Week - began as No TV Week during the last week in April. Activities are scheduled each night to encourage our families to reduce, voluntarily and dramatically, the amount of screen time that they participate in, in order to promote richer, healthier and more connected lives, families and communities. Cardboard Challenge, Create and Read Evening, Read Around the School, Family Dinner & Game Night, a Ledge View Nature Center collaboration night, and Family Swim Night, along with a couch potato design contest, remind our students and parents the importance of being together as a family.

Read Around the School - This yearly event occurs during Screen Free Week. Staff and community members choose a book to read based on the yearly elementary theme and then participants create a STEAM project. Ten - fifteen volunteers participate each year with over 100 families enjoying two sessions. Afterwards, we all meet in the cafeteria for a snack. Volunteers are gifted & fed beforehand to encourage their continued participation.

4th Grade Reading Sleepover - All fourth grade students are welcome to attend an overnight in our elementary gymnasium. Students get fresh air before reading, eating pizza, reading, playing trench, reading, participating in a Chinese Checkers tournament, reading, sleeping, reading, breakfast, and home.

Library Club - Third - eighth grade students volunteer one recess or afterschool per week to help in the library by shelving books, straightening the library and makerspace, and act as our advisory council recommending new resources and services. Students commit to serve one semester and are compensated with a thank you party.

Coding Club - Coding Club began after Sue took a Code.org one-day workshop at Marquette University in spring of 2015. It provides students the opportunity to think creatively, reason systematically, and work collaboratively — essential skills for life in the 21st century. Students learn about computational thinking while collaborating with one another using Code.org and CS First curriculums, Minecraft, and various robotics: LEGO WeDo, Ozobots, Spheros. Interest has demanded that two clubs (Grades 1-4 and Grades 5-8) be formed meeting every other Tuesday after school.

Creators Club - Our makerspace is a place where students gather to create, invent, tinker, explore and discover using a variety of tools and materials. Monday Makers are inspired students who meet after school to uncover their talents, needs, and interests by making, producing, solving, creating, collaborating, and thinking — essential skills for life in the 21st century. Alternate Mondays, elementary students collaborate on the same STEAM project while middle school students choose their own project with Mrs. Salzsieder as facilitator.

Genius Hour - Sue has mentored a select group of fourth graders using the Genius Hour model to create a love for learning. Students choose whatever they want to learn about, helping students develop their passions and even unlock a future career path.

Book Fair - Sue coordinates our book fair to coincide with our elementary Fine Arts Night and middle school Showcase & 8th Grade Recognition in order for students to have reading material over the summer.

Summer Reading Checkout - Students are allowed to take home books over the summer as some do not have access to our public library and their summer reading program.

Biblionasium - This program, which is integrated with our Destiny catalog, allows students to keep track of their reading, make recommendations to friends, and review books. Implementation began this year in coordination with the middle school language arts program. Plans have been made to implement with upper elementary students second semester.

Sue graduated from UW-Oshkosh in 1983 with Bachelor of Science degrees in Library Science, Education, and Anthropology. She received her Master of Arts in Library and Information Studies from UW-Madison in 1988. Mrs. Salzsieder has forty-three additional graduate credits with emphasis on courses about library planning and automation, literacy, and technology. She seeks out professional development opportunities to add to her skill set. She has attended all but one spring WEMA/WEMTA conference since 1983 and a couple of fall ones. In the last several years she has paid her own way to ALA and ISTE conferences. She was chosen to attend the Milwaukee Digital Media Conference at the Milwaukee Art Museum, Picademy in Ann Arbor, Michigan and the WIFab Retreat at UW-Stout. She has attended Literacy by the Lakes at UW-Madison for three years in a row. She has also attended the EWITC Summer Instructional Technology Academy and several area EdCamps. She participates in an average of two webinars per month on topics relating to such as makerspaces, coding, augmented and virtual reality, fake news, writing, storytelling, cyberbullying, digital citizenship, and grant writing. She is certified to teach Code.org's Computer Science Discoveries. Her interest in bringing computer science to Chilton has changed what our middle school technology classes offer. She now teaches the first part of

the curriculum to our fifth and sixth graders while our high school business education colleague, Kelly Moehn, teaches the rest to our seventh and eighth graders. Elementary students also learn computer science using Kodable during library classes and in the classroom. I would say Sue has a desire to continuously learn and develop new skills and expertise, a willingness and ability to collaborate and build relationships with students, staff, and parents, and good communication skills.

Sue seeks leadership opportunities within our district and community. She is Chilton's District Library Media Specialist, coordinates our technology committee, and is lead writer of our Information Technology plan. She is on the middle school's Building Leadership Team. Sue has been a facilitator for many school wide professional development inservice dates. She is our school's representative to the Chilton Public Library Board. She was also a Girl Scout leader for nine years and remains active by volunteering to be Cookie Manager for new Chilton troops.

Mrs. Salzsieder has actively sought grants to add resources to the library media program and create a makerspace. In the last five years, she has secured \$21,000 to purchase Spheros & Ollies, Ozobots, Dash & Dots, LittleBits, Minecraft, LEGO StoryStarters and WeDo 2.0 kits, and Tynker through the Chilton Area Community Foundation, Heritage Fund, and the Chilton PTA. Donors Choose has funded iTouch devices to use with robotics, LEGO WeDo 2.0 kits, and virtual reality glasses. A Chilton Arts Core grant funded a creation wall with a LiteBrite pegboard, Magnetic Poetry, and two large LEGO walls with five small LEGO panels at the end of bookshelves. Mrs. Salzsieder sought community support and collaborated with a high school student who was looking to earn his Eagle Scout award for the wall construction. Book Fair profits have gone towards buying makerspace shelving and moveable carts to store valuable resources. It has also gone towards repurposing wooden magazine racks and study carrels into moveable whiteboard tables with storage that were designed and constructed by our high school Tiger Manufacturing class. These tables along with a Rock 'n Read area comprised of ten rocking chairs provide students with healthy movement and support collaborative learning. Tiger Manufacturing will be building moveable carts next semester to organize paper rolls and cardboard in the library makerspace.

The evolution of the digital environment means no one can rest on his or her laurels. Sue demonstrates the ability to think "outside of the box" and uses forward thinking to meet challenges and problem solve. She often uses her own personal time during weekends and summer as well as her personal money to update and improve our library. I would say Sue consistently demonstrates a desire to continuously learn and develop new skills and expertise. She has the willingness and ability to communicate, collaborate, and build relationships. She is well respected by her colleagues both at Chilton and our surrounding school districts. She deserves the WEMTA Professional of the Year.