



## Teacher Feature

**Jamie Goodsnyder** doesn't seem like the dumpster diving type, but that's exactly what she did in pursuit of becoming a teacher. "I never played house, only school," she said thinking back to her childhood and explaining that one year she and a friend went digging through the trash at the end of the school year to get old workbooks for their playtime.

Mrs. Goodsnyder grew up in Buffalo Grove and spent a lot of time visiting her mother's kindergarten classroom. She has fond memories of her own elementary school years and especially remembers enjoying the competition of field day when she and her 6th grade classmates practiced for the tug-of-war and strategized the best way to win by staggering the kids on the rope. It was a successful plan! She also enjoyed serving as part of the school patrol with fellow 5th and 6th graders who were charged with helping the younger students and were rewarded with a field trip to a Cubs game!

Her interest in caring for young students led Mrs. Goodsnyder to a teaching degree from the University of Illinois, and later, a master's degree in teaching and leadership from St. Xavier University. She found her first teaching job at Winkelman School in Glenview and then interviewed for a job in District 28 at either Westmoor or Meadowbrook. At the time, it was unclear which school had an opening, and her hiring letter arrived with the wrong message. It stated she'd be teaching third grade at Westmoor, but she was actually hired to teach kindergarten at Meadowbrook. Twenty-six years later, she has taught four different grades at Meadowbrook and is in her eighth year in fourth grade. "What I like about fourth grade is that the kids can carry on a conversation, get your sense of humor, and they are more engaged," she said.

When she's not busy in the classroom, Mrs. Goodsnyder is focused on her family. She has a son in college and a daughter in high school who also wants to be a teacher. Together, the Goodsnyder family has enjoyed a great deal of travel, including trips to Cancun, San Juan and St. Thomas. This past summer, Mrs. Goodsnyder and her husband celebrated their 25th anniversary with a trip to Hawaii where she particularly enjoyed the sunset cruise in Kauai.

During the summer, the Goodsnyders spend time on their boat, which is docked in Lake Michigan near the Great Lakes Naval Station. The kids go tubing, but Mrs. Goodsnyder prefers to stay out of the cold water. This spring break she may have a chance to swim in warmer water as she and her daughter are headed to Naples, Florida for a special mother/daughter trip.

### **Fun Facts about Mrs. Goodsnyder**

- Competed in gymnastics during high school.
- Met her husband through a college friend who had been her mother's student.
- Keeps up her grandmother's Hanukkah grab bag tradition of giving gifts with a poem.
- Made enough money babysitting that she was able to make the down payment on their first house.

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