

2006 HONOREE

Brenda Joyce Moncriste

Scotlandville Magnet High School, Baton Rouge, LA
High School Math Education • 9th and 10th Grade



Years Teaching: 39

Average Class Size: 28

Classes Taught Per Day: 5

School's % of ESL Students: 0%

School Type: Public, Inner-City

Type of Class: Self-contained

“During the early years of my career, general mathematics was part of the curriculum, especially for students who were not considered bound for college. This effort was aimed primarily at producing mathematically literate citizens who would be wise consumers, investors, and personal finance managers. Many of these students were expected to go directly into the family business – fishing, farming, and small entrepreneurialships. While students who took general mathematics were in the majority in those days, they were not recognized as scholars or even possible scholars. These students felt the great socio-academic chasm between themselves and the college-bound that lessened their desires to achieve at the highest potential. Recognizing the abilities of the students and the need to boost their morale, I worked with a teacher of literature, a teacher of history, and the music teacher to develop an in-house humanities -type program wherein we made interdisciplinary connections. As a result, the students felt the connections between some otherwise disjointed academics, and student achievement rose.”

“Since I know my students, I alter the suggested enhancement activities to fit them. If a skit is needed instead of the models the guide suggests we build, the building project will contain a drama segment. If I know that some little song will be more effective than the drawing we have been given, my students and I will draw while we sing or sing while we draw. I am able to put my students’ needs and my district’s requirements in proper perspective, prioritizing in favor of student achievement. I refuse to be robotic and non-creative.”



“Mrs. Moncriste has impacted my family for more than 30 years. In 1975, when I was a student at Plaquemine High School, she was my algebra teacher. She was so creative and energetic that we couldn’t wait to get to her class. When I got to college, I was ready. I had a foundation and a discipline for the work. I owed much of that to Mrs. Moncriste’s motivation and encouragement. Then, when my son was a junior at Southern University Laboratory School, Mrs. Moncriste was his mathematics teacher. Amazingly, I found her as energetic and involved as ever.”

– *Aquarius ‘Terry’ Johnson,*
former student and
parent of former student