

## **Richard L. McClintock**

It is my honor to present Richard L. McClintock with the 2018 Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award. Rick has been a colleague and, more importantly, a great friend for many years; and he is certainly deserving of this prestigious award. Rick grew up in Burlington, the son of Richard and Mary McClintock, and he attended Rice Memorial High School. He graduated from Manhattan College with a B.S. in Mathematics in 1978, and he was also ranked number one in his class in the School of Education.

Rick began teaching mathematics in Ticonderoga the fall of that year, working in the High School and coaching baseball with Jim Wells. After two years he returned to his Alma Mater, Rice Memorial High School, where he taught math and coached softball. I have heard him talk about this often because he had the opportunity to coach with his father, and they were very successful. Rick worked at Rice from 1980-1990 and during that time he earned a Masters of Education from St. Michaels College.

I asked his mother to tell me about his days at Rice. She did not say much except that he was young so he grew a beard so kids would think he was older. I do know he had great respect for the priests and nuns he worked with, especially Brother John. Rick must have made an impact on his students as he was the Vermont Jaycees Young Educator of the Year in 1982, and also received the Presidential Award for Excellence which was presented to him by the United States Secretary of Education in Washington, D.C.

Fortunately for Ticonderoga, he moved back here the fall of 1990 and finished up his 40 year career in education, retiring at the end of this school year. While in Ticonderoga, Rick received the Walmart Teacher of the Year Award and the College Board Advanced Placement Program Outstanding Teacher in the Middle States Award in 2010. Rick also volunteered to coached baseball with Dan Dorsett, helping the team to numerous sectional championships and two state finals.

What can I say about Rick as a teacher? He is hands down the best educator I have had the pleasure to work with in my thirty years in education. His results speak for themselves, but it is the intangibles that set him apart. When I was Middle School Principal, he would get 7<sup>th</sup> Graders to

come to school at 7:00 a.m. for Math Club. He would entice them to come by bringing donuts, but after their first day, you could tell they were coming because of him. Think about it: 20-25 7<sup>th</sup> Graders voluntarily coming to school early to do math. They were not getting extra credit, or extra help; they were doing math because he motivated them and made it fun.

I looked back at Rick's attendance while in Ticonderoga. In the 30 years he worked here, he missed 2 days of school. One was for a funeral, and one for Good Friday. Rick was always the first one in the building and often the last one to leave. He never took a period off, as his door was always open to help students. He even worked with them during his lunch. Students did not want to let him down, even those that struggled in school. There were some students who would only do homework for his class. And the things he got away with were incredible. For example he would write on students' faces with a pen, and those students would wear that for the rest of the day as a badge of honor for all to see.

He believed in kids, and as a result, they believed in themselves. He had students taking math courses that you would never think possible because of the motivation and confidence he instilled in them. And this confidence carried way beyond his classroom. For many students, the courage to take the steps to go to college came from lessons learned in his classroom. I am always amazed when I talk to alumni how many talk about Mr. McClintock's class and the influence he had on them. He has the rare gift of being able to connect with any student and earn their respect.

Rick did more for this District than just teach. He served as the chair on a variety of committees in the Middle School, High School and District-wide. He led by example and was an outstanding role model for his colleagues. He wore a tie every day, even on field trips. I chaperoned a whale watch trip to Provincetown with him one year and as we opened our hotel room door to go to breakfast, a mass of students were there to take pictures because they had never seen him in blue jeans.

On a personal note Rick has made me a better administrator. The conversations we have had surrounding education have broadened my perspective as a principal and superintendent. He is a true professional in every sense of the word. He is also a good friend and he and his wife Lee are godparents to our children.

Rick is very proud of his accomplishments as an educator and of the results in his classroom and the impact he has had on students in Ticonderoga. I know he is proud of his distinguished forty-year career. But if you ask him, he most proud of his family: his parents and five brothers and sisters, his lovely wife Lee and her children, and his grandchildren.

The Friend of Ticonderoga High School Award is given to a non-alumnus who has made significant contributions to the Ticonderoga School Community. I cannot think of someone who fits this definition better than Rick McClintock.

### **Friend of Ticonderoga Schools Award**

**Speech Given by Dr. John McDonald July 27, 2018**