



# CUYAHOGA HEIGHTS SCHOOL DISTRICT

DISCOVER YOUR NEW HEIGHTS

## TOM TALKS | May 20, 2020

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### ***RETIREMENTS***

This "Tom Talks" will address only two items: the retirements of two outstanding educators from our school system.

**Nancy Wanyerka** and **Dan D'Orazio** have, combined, 64 years of educating the students of Cuyahoga Heights Schools.

As many of you have yourselves witnessed, Nancy and Dan have been so much more to this district than teachers. They have been coaches, mentors, advisors, chaperones, colleagues -- and most of all friends.

I have been blessed to spend the last third of their Cuyahoga Heights careers as their Principal and now Superintendent and will miss them on many, many levels.

There has never been a time when I have begun a sentence with the words, "I need..." and before I finished my sentence Nancy and Dan had already volunteered to help.

As educators, it should surprise no one that both Nancy and Dan have been recognized on the local and state levels for their accomplishments in the classroom.

As role models, they have looked out for and extended a helping hand to students who are growing and finding out who and what type of people they want to be.

In my mind, Nancy Wanyerka and Dan D'Orazio personify what it means to be a part of Cuyahoga Heights Schools.

Perhaps the best way to honor them is for you to read their retirement letters below. There you'll find their own words sharing what Cuyahoga Heights Schools have meant to them throughout their generous lives and

careers.

Nancy and Dan, you will be missed and #ForeveraRedskin!

Thanks,

Tom

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**NANCY  
WANYERKA**

Dear Tom,

It is with such mixed emotions that I have decided to retire this year, effective July 1, 2020.

Cuyahoga Heights has always been my home away from home, so the decision to retire has been a difficult one, to say the least. But, it is time.

Cuyahoga Heights has given me so much: as an educator, the chance to spread my wings and try new things; working with and learning from my beloved students; forging friendships and learning from my colleagues; and professional development opportunities.

All of these things provide me now with such wonderful memories and I am so grateful. I have worked hard to try to be the best of possible teachers and can only hope that through my aspirations I have made some kind of difference. Every day I wanted to come to work.

Just want you to know I will always have a fondness in my heart for my dear Cuyahoga Heights. And even though I am choosing now to "put down my chalk" (yes, I am dating myself here), I will always be a Redskin.

Thank you for your leadership through these years, Tom. You are truly the best! It has been a wonderful run!

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**DAN D'ORAZIO**

Dear Mr. Evans, Mr. Dobbins, Mr. Nejman, Mrs. Schuckert, Mrs. Eder and Mr. Suchocki,

I am writing to let you know that I will be retiring from teaching for the Cuyahoga Heights Schools at the conclusion of the 2019-2020 school year. At that time I will have finished my 35th year of teaching with the last 31 at Cuyahoga Heights. Time sure does fly when you are having fun.

I have enjoyed 95% of my time here in "the

bubble." And 100% since the 6 of you have been running the show. I want to thank you and your families for all of the hard work and dedication you put into the Cuyahoga Heights Schools. It truly has been a pleasure and honor to teach at such a great place with such a great faculty, staff and community. I'm blessed to have discovered this hidden gem and can't imagine having taught anywhere else for 31 years.

I also want to thank you for educating and adopting our three sons into the district. With all the great role models here it was a pleasure to have them attend such a great school and it made my last 13 years at CHS that much more enjoyable.

I feel like it wouldn't be right if I didn't include some parting advice for you so here goes. For you as school leaders all your decisions are easy - simply ask yourself "is it good for the kids?" If so, then do it; if not, then don't. What's best for the kids should drive all school decisions and I believe you as a group make your decisions based on that belief and that is why our school is thriving. Next make sure you take care of yourselves by prioritizing your time - Faith, Family and then Work should be how you get through each day. As I've learned to do this a "little" better each year life has gotten easier and more enjoyable. God is in control. When we realize that and let Him do His thing, every day becomes a gift from Him that is a joy to live instead of a chore to live. He can get you through anything. That's enough advice for now.

I pray that all of you had a glorious Easter and I wish you the best of luck getting through these unprecedented times and all the new decisions you have to make.

Again I thank you and wish you all the best. Stay healthy and God bless.

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