



## DAVE BARNHILL

A thirty-foot-long lawn sign at Wilson Vance said it all! “We will miss you Mr. Barnhill!” Dave Barnhill retired as principal of Wilson Vance Intermediate School after a mere 21 years of service. Thursday, May 24, was his last day with students.

Born and raised here in Findlay Dave attended Jefferson, Donnell and Findlay high school graduating in 1982. He carried on his education at Bluffton College receiving an Elementary Education degree in 1986. He had spent

time observing high school classes and determined that wasn’t where he wanted to be teaching.

He began his journey teaching in Mechanicsburg, Ohio and then spent the next nine years in Bellefontaine teaching fifth grade. Wanting to have an impact on more than just a classroom of students at a time, Dave earned his Master’s degree in Science and Education from the University of Dayton. He began dual duties of teaching fourth grade and also being

the principal of the small Pine Avenue School. With this experience he felt prompted to interview in Findlay and was hired as the principal of Wilson Vance in 1997.

The journey has been a wonderful one as he fondly speaks of his over 320 students and almost thirty teachers and staff. His students are very diverse with students from many economic levels and from over ten different countries. This includes India, Germany, Russia, China, and Japan to name a few. “It is fun to see the students share their cultures and teach one another.”

It has been Dave’s goal to help all his kids “be successful lifelong learners.” He credits the success of the school from his belief that if he “hired good people and got out of their way success would follow.” He has very mixed emotions as he ends his career. He will miss his staff and kids. He asks that whoever is interested in following in his footsteps do three things. “Bring a passion for each student, have lots of energy and develop a great love for learning.”

His future is an open book right now. He will be taking care of FCS schools lawns during the summer. Then he and his wife of 31 years, Marsha are planning a cruise either to Alaska or the Caribbean. They have two grown children, Travis, 28 (who has given Dave and Marsha a grandson they want to spend more time with), and Janelle who is a nursing assistant here in Findlay. Family is very important to Dave and he plans to spend a lot of time with them!

Well done Mr. Barnhill! Enjoy the future!