



We asked our Facebook fans

who inspired them to become educators. Not surprisingly, it was a teacher!

Ms. Sharilyn McSwan, Mission Bay High School, in the mid-80s. She opened my eyes to Shakespeare and brought theatre and literature to life. —**Laura Bossom**

Mr. Charles Fink was my history teacher in tenth grade. His journeys around the world and his fabulous Christmas tree gave me a love of history that remains today. My other inspiration was Paul Maier at Western Michigan University. They must have done something right because I now inspire a new generation of students to love history. —**Mary Fisher**

Susan Johnson was my English teacher junior year. I wanted to be like her—kind, caring, knowledgeable. She was pregnant and didn't return the next year. I wish I had been able to tell her she inspired me to be an English teacher. I've been in the profession since 1977. —**Cindy Chmura Curry**

Her name was **Mrs. Ogles**, and she was from Weatherford, Okla. I have no clue where she is today, but she had the patience with me that I now give to my students. —**April Christine Griffin**

I still see my fourth-grade teacher. She is a very special woman in my life and has been for the last 45 years! Her name is **Mrs. Garner Greasor**. She was a tough, structured teacher but you knew she cared about each of her students. She is so proud of what I have accomplished and has been sure to tell me when I see her. —**Paula Burke Ziegler**

Mrs. Wallace, first-grade teacher, Mt. Houston Elementary, Houston, Texas 1963 – 1964. I am not in contact, but I'd love to tell her how important she is. —**Amanda Sessions Oldham**

My mom, **Karen Hart**, the most inspirational teacher I've ever met! —**Kimberly Anne**

My grandmother, a graduate of the University of Wisconsin at Madison. She was an innovative and creative first-grade teacher; she was way ahead of her time. She would be 126 years old if she were alive today. I was so fortunate to help her in her classroom. —**Maureen Kowker**

Zalewski E. Busby not only inspired me to teach but also guided me through much of what life threw my way. He is class, common sense, and good humor. An awesome role model for all the lives he touched. —**Lauri Foley**

My seventh-grade teacher was an inspiration and lit the fire that still burns inside of me today. I became a teacher to pay it forward. Teaching is my purpose, my passion. She became my mentor and colleague years later in the Association and is a lifetime friend today. —**Theresa Kaisner Flood**

My son and husband—both have learning disabilities—inspired my second career of teaching. My goal is to have the same qualities as my third-grade teacher, **Cathy McCachren**. Nearly 40 years later, she remains an inspiration and my friend. —**Marlene Hughes Pittman**

Cathy McCachren responds to Marlene: What an honor to have inspired one of my students to dedicate herself to helping our students. Marlene makes me so proud and thankful that I have passed the educators' torch to teachers like her. She was a remarkable student and is an even more remarkable teacher. Thank goodness for committed teachers like her.



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