

**BOARD OF EDUCATION OF HARFORD COUNTY
RECOGNITION**

HCPS EDUCATOR HALL OF FAME

**WILLIAM R. CARPENTER
STU CHAPMAN**

June 17, 2019

Background Information:

The Harford County Public Schools Educator Hall of Fame program, in partnership with the Harford County Retired School Personnel Association (HCRSPA), recognizes educators who have provided at least 20 years of extraordinary service to students and staff in the school system. Two Board of Education recognition ceremonies are scheduled per school year – one in the fall and one in the summer – where a class of up to three nominees are presented with plaques, Board certificates and proclamations from county and state government officials, and are officially inducted into the Hall of Fame. The inductees also are featured on the Harford County Public Schools website, www.hcps.org.

Discussion:

Summer 2019 Hall of Fame Inductees:

William R. Carpenter

William Carpenter was born and raised in Potter County, Pennsylvania. He earned his bachelor's degree from Lycoming College in 1974, and later went on to receive a master's degree from Loyola College in 1981.

Mr. Carpenter transferred to Harford County after the education office at his college informed him of an open science position with Harford County Public Schools (HCPS). He took the position at Bel Air Middle School, which was later renamed Bel Air Middle School North and finally Southampton Middle School. He remained there his entire career.

What Mr. Carpenter enjoyed most was teaching about the wonder of the natural world. It was gratifying to him to see students demonstrate the same enthusiasm for the world of living things. He also enjoyed developing a strong rapport with his students by trying to always treat them the way that he would have wanted to be treated if he was in their shoes.

During his career, Mr. Carpenter's top priority was doing an effective job in his own classroom. However, he also took great pride in being an instrumental member of his instructional team. His team of math, language arts, social studies, science, and special education teachers was dynamic, creative, and dedicated. He, along with his colleagues, took great pride in trying to create for their students the most memorable year in their school career.

Mr. Carpenter fulfilled roles outside of his classroom to serve at a broader school level, including science department chairmanship and school improvement team member. In addition, he was active in the systemwide arena by working with various curriculum development committees and providing staff development to HCPS educators, opportunities that put him in contact with highly talented and devoted teachers from across the county.

Mr. Carpenter reflects fondly of his involvement in several special initiatives over the years, including the Dream Foundation to benefit local charities; the Marathon of Achievement to challenge students to become more well-rounded academically by the development of their character and service to others; blood drives; patriotism assemblies; science fairs, quarterly academic award assemblies; team plays; Bridging the Generations celebrations; and others.

Mr. Carpenter received several awards and recognitions throughout his career, including WBAL-TV's Class Act Award, Science Teaching Tool Award from Armed Forces Communications and Electronics Association, Best Scout Award from the American Red Cross, Everyday Hero Award from Greater Excellence in Education Foundation, Honorable Mention Youth Leader Award from Harford County Youth Council, and finalist for HCPS Teacher of the Year.

After 43 years of dedicated service to HCPS, Mr. Carpenter retired in 2017.

Stu Chapman

Stu Chapman grew up in Catonsville, MD. He attended Catonsville Community College for his first two years of higher education, and then transferred to Frostburg State College where he completed his undergraduate degree in 1973.

Upon graduation from Frostburg State College, he applied for teaching positions in several counties in Maryland, ultimately accepting a position as a biology teacher at Havre de Grace High School in June of 1973. Mr. Chapman went on to complete graduate work at Towson State University in 1979.

Mr. Chapman taught biology and chemistry at Havre de Grace High School for the first 10 years of his career, from 1973 until 1983. In 1983, he accepted a voluntary transfer to the position of Planetarium Teacher where he served as an Itinerant at the Edgewood Middle School and Aberdeen High School planetariums from 1983 until 1989. In 1989, Mr. Chapman transferred to Southampton Middle School where he was planetarium teacher until 1997. In 1997, he transferred to Harford Technical High School where he taught biology, chemistry, and physics for 11 years. In 2008, he moved to the Aberdeen High School Science and Mathematics Academy where he served as a chemistry teacher until his retirement in 2017.

What Mr. Chapman enjoyed first and foremost about teaching was the daily interaction with the students and serving as a positive role model. His goal was always to have his enthusiasm for science transfer to his students, and he loved working with students of all academic abilities and strived to make subjects like biology and chemistry fun and engaging with a great deal of active student participation through laboratory work and lab demonstrations.

Mr. Chapman views three of his major career accomplishments as transforming planetarium instruction, being part of the renewal of Harford Technical High School, and teaching chemistry at the Science and Mathematics Academy.

When Mr. Chapman began teaching in the planetarium in 1983, much of the programming was like visiting a display in a museum or science center. Mr. Chapman transformed it into a science laboratory classroom, where instead of just listening, students were given the opportunity to point something out in the simulated sky and/or collect astronomical data to use back in their classroom in post planetarium instruction with their regular teacher.

When Mr. Chapman arrived at Harford Tech in 1997, the school was transforming from being a two-year program to a full four-year comprehensive high school. For Mr. Chapman, it was a source of professional pride and accomplishment to have been fortunate enough to have been a small part of the transformation of Harford Tech to the excellent school it is today.

The Science and Mathematics Academy is where Mr. Chapman was able to find a large number of students whose love of chemistry was very similar to his. He was able to offer electives in chemistry which were unique to the Science and Mathematics Academy and created curriculum and laboratory exercises in such subjects as organic chemistry and biochemistry and then share the content with the students.

Mr. Chapman's efforts went beyond his classroom. In the early 1990's, he applied for a volunteer position as the education editor for the Focus on Education feature published in *The Planetarian*, the journal of the International Planetarium Society. He submitted articles about lessons he had completed in the Harford County planetariums and received and edited articles from other planetarians. He was pleased to receive correspondence that several planetarians in school settings had begun to implement his planetarium lessons in their coursework.

Also, in the 1990's, Mr. Chapman attended a summer program on meteorology and weather prediction. As a result of his participating in the program, Harford County Public Schools was awarded the software and antenna for receiving automatic satellite transmissions of images from polar orbiting satellites in real time. He sponsored a "Weather Club" at Southampton Middle School where students actively used Image Processing software to process the raw images.

Throughout his career, Mr. Chapman was a member of the professional teaching union, serving as HCEA representative and then as vice president.

In 1987, Mr. Chapman was fortunate enough to be awarded the secondary school curriculum award, and in 2001, he was selected as a candidate for HCPS Teacher of the Year.

In 2017, Mr. Chapman retired after 44 years of dedicated service to Harford County Public Schools. He did not wish to retire completely though, so he still teaches as an adjunct professor at Harford Community College and is an occasional substitute for Harford County Public Schools.

Superintendent's Recommendation:

The Superintendent recommends the Board of Education of Harford County induct William R. Carpenter and Stu Chapman into the HCPS Educator Hall of Fame in recognition of their years of extraordinary service to the students, staff and community of the Harford County Public Schools.