

## *Educator putting away her tools and toys after 30-year teaching career*

*Editor's note: Included in today's edition is The Community Post's annual Kindergarten graduation special section. While that issue focuses on the aspirations of the youngest members of the local education system, we thought we'd also feature a local teacher who spent many years helping those youngsters get a good start on their education.*

**Laura Mazur**

**Community Post**

After more than 30 years of teaching, Marion Local kindergarten teacher, Becky Meyer-Quinter, will hang up her book bag and retire.

"I always wanted to work with children," she said. "They bring fun into life."

Since the time she started teaching, much has changed.

When Meyer-Quinter started teaching kindergarten, standards were more relaxed. Now kindergarten is being called the new first grade because it is now what first grade used to be. With academic standards having to be met with benchmarks in criteria and grade level indicators, reading and comprehension, for example, have taken a step up. When she started, only one to two of her student could actually read when completing kindergarten. Now the majority of her students have this basic skill. More emphasis has been put on making the classroom a learning

environment, versus a playing environment. Instead of puppets, trucks and dress-up, phonemic awareness and other academics are being stressed.

Computers have also become a large part of the education system since Meyer-Quinter started. She said that while computers do enhance learning, kids should still get outside and play like they used to.

Children have remained the same throughout the years, however.

"Children are stayed basically the same. They want to be loved and respected," she said.

She recalls one kindergarten student who wouldn't even leave for the day unless she got a hug before leaving at the end of the day. If she left without one, she would run back into Meyer-Quinter's arms to complete her day.

Meyer-Quinter has always used the "three c's" toward her students: confidence, commitment and compassion. She feels that as long as she instills these values in her students, they work with her to learn and she can teach them better.

She said, "[Learning] depends so much on how bright they think they are."

Meyer-Quinter has spent the majority of her teaching career, about 25 years actually, with kindergartners but not her whole career. She started teaching at St. Aloysius Catholic School in



Bowling Green with third-graders and kept with the same grade when she started teaching at Bowling Green City Schools. In 1974, she started at Marion Local and has taught second grade and fifth grade briefly during her time there, but said she missed "the little kids" and their eagerness to learn.

Meyer-Quinter, 58, has children of her own—grandchildren, too. She has five grandchildren, two years and younger. She is retiring to help take care of her family and spend time with them. Gardening, reading and traveling also await the retiring teacher as the summer approaches.

The hardest day of school for Meyer-Quinter is the last day. She said this year's last day on May 25 will be exceptionally difficult for her because it will really be her last day.