

## **After 28 years, Cary Ursino Retires**

**09/10/2021**

After 28 years as a beloved homeroom teacher and vice-principal, Cary Ursino has retired. During her time at KSDA she showed amazing leadership, a passion for her students and a steady, caring nature.

Mrs. Ursino is happy to be able to join her husband in retirement and looks forward to riding her electric bike, hiking, kayaking, reading, cooking and traveling. She is currently planning a trip to Boston in the fall with her husband, where she looks forward to enjoying the changing leaves—a trip she couldn't have taken while teaching.

Although Mrs. Ursino is ready for this new phase in life, she will be returning to KSDA now and then as what Mr. Jacaban called “one of the most qualified substitute teachers in KSDA's history.”

She will be missed by her students, their families and colleagues alike. Mr. Jacaban said, “Cary's leadership is very understated. Her consistent demeanor combined with her community relationships made her one of the most effective leaders I have known. I am privileged to have called her a colleague, but more importantly, a friend.”

To pay tribute to all the years Mrs. Ursino has committed to her students, the school showed a surprise video tribute at the last chapel of the 2020-2021 school year in May, where past students made videos thanking her for the lasting impact she has made on their lives.

Andrew Nye, who knows Mrs. Ursino not only as his teacher in fifth and sixth grade, as well as a coworker the last three years, said, “Cary has been a pleasure to work with, her wisdom and calming presence will be missed around campus. I feel that I wouldn't be who I am today without the things that she's passed on to me as her student.”

The school board has since asked Jodi Griffin to serve as the KSDA vice-principal and she has graciously accepted. Patrice Osborne, previously from Lodi Adventist Elementary, will be teaching the fifth and sixth grade classes.

While Mrs. Ursino is enjoying her newfound freedom, said she “will miss getting to know the students and their families.” After 28 years of teaching, it has become her “norm” to see people every day and enjoy the comradery with her coworkers. She said, “This has become a part of my life, and now it's gone. But not in a bad way—I just have to look at things differently.”

After years of hard work, Mrs. Ursino more than deserves some rest and relaxation. The KSDA community wishes her the best of luck in the next stage of life, but that doesn't mean we won't miss her!