

The Dr. Marty Carter Elementary Grant for Exceptional Children



Dr. Martha (Marty) S. Carter, a native of Kingsport, TN, received her B.S. in Elementary Education from East Tennessee State University ('68), her master's in special education at Memphis State University ('70), and her doctorate in Educational Administration at the University of Georgia (Ed. D,'84).

Dr. Carter began her career teaching children with special needs in a self-contained classroom in the Memphis City Schools. She came to Georgia by way of Fort Benning, where her husband completed a tour of duty in the U.S. Army.

After moving to Athens to open the family dental practice, she joined the Clarke County School District in 1977, first as a long-term substitute at Alps Road Elementary School, then as a learning disabilities resource teacher and team leader for special education at Timothy Road Elementary School. On completion of her doctorate in the early 80's, she worked as project director with the UGA College of Education's Bureau of Educational Services, specializing in strategic planning and organizational development.

In the remaining years of her career Marty alternated between classroom stints in special education classrooms at Winterville and Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary Schools and leadership experiences, including her eight years as Coordinator of Research and Planning at NE Georgia Regional Service Agency. Not long before her retirement, she decided to spend her last years where she was happiest: in the classroom with special needs students. She became a resource teacher and team leader for special education at Oglethorpe Avenue Elementary. So impactful was her influence on instruction for both students and teachers, she accepted a call to serve as Assistant Principal for Instruction there before retiring in 2003. In her retirement, Dr. Carter continued to support the CCSD by serving as a Trustee for the Foundation for Excellence in Public Education in Clarke County, Georgia, from 2004-2007.

Dr. Carter is married to Charles J. Carter, DDS, and is the mother of two adult children, Alyson and Ashley, who graduated from Clarke Central High School.

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Established by Patricia Britton

Principal of Winterville Elementary School 1972-86

Patricia (Pat) Britton became the principal of Winterville Elementary School in 1972 after serving as assistant principal at Lyons Middle School and teaching fifth grade at the North Avenue School during the transition to an integrated school district.

As a relatively new principal, she led Winterville to participate in the district's first Title IV Adoption/Adaptation project- a three-year effort to revise the elementary language arts curriculum and increase student achievement through extensive staff development.

Among her other contributions to the children at Winterville Elementary was a strong focus on the arts. With her background in music education, in concert with the music and art teachers, she led teachers to incorporate these skills in an extensive program of dramatic arts. When she collaborated on the design for the new Winterville Elementary School, opened in 1978-79, she was passionate about having a facility with equipment sufficient to carry on that tradition.

One of her lasting contributions was leadership in establishing a system of elementary parent conferences in the early eighties, requiring a State Department of Education waiver to dismiss children early for teachers to meet with parents. In the same way, she was one of the first to establish a common planning time for teachers.

To honor her, friends and family members created a Pat Britton Library Fund for children's books at Winterville Elementary School. In 2011, the school named the Pat Britton Media Center in her honor.

Marty and Pat are members of the small, close group of retired Clarke County School District administrators known as the **PrinciPALS**. This group of legendary school leaders includes Lola Finn, Joan Humphries, and the late June Baldwin Turnell. This group came together during their long and distinguished careers in CCSD, and their friendships became even stronger during their retirement years. For over 25 years, these friends have enjoyed spending time together during weekly lunches and at weekend getaways in the mountains.

As the years have gone by, Marty has stepped up to take care of Pat in every way. She is more like a family member now, as she constantly checks in and looks for ways to make Pat's life easier and more comfortable.

"Marty does so much for me," says Pat. "I want to let her know how much I appreciate her friendship. I also want to give back to our school district and to the community that has meant so much to me. I can think of no better way to honor my friend than to create this grant for those we both have loved and served for so many years, the students of the CCSD."