

Mrs. Sue Alexander: Coach

Mrs. Sue Alexander, more warmly known as Mrs. A, began her OGHS teaching career in the fall 1971 as a business and marketing teacher with courses in typing, business, secretarial practice, shorthand, word processing, and the marketing release program. She also served as pep club sponsor, Homecoming coordinator, junior class sponsor and Prom coordinator, CTA president, DECA adviser, and TREND adviser during her OGHS career. In January 1972, she assumed the position of cheer coach and developed several programs and traditions that still make OGHS unique. Through the years under her direction, the cheer program created the following activities: hand-painted spirit signs throughout town, Homecoming community pep rally and bon fire, senior circle, roll call of OGHS graduates, senior football players surprising senior Homecoming queen candidates, and senior breakfast before graduation. In 1986 and 1987, the varsity cheer squad qualified to compete at the National Cheerleaders Association national competition in Orlando, FL, and in 1988 started competition at the Missouri Cheer Coaches Association regional and state contests. The many squads over the years placed in the top five every year at the regional level and won state championships in 2002 (4A Large Division) and 2003 (4A Small Division). Mrs. A retired from coaching and teaching in 2007 after 39 years in the classroom. Since the spring of 2008, she has continued her service in education as an Oak Grove R-VI Board of Education member and President since 2010. She enjoys spending her time with husband Brad, son Jason, and many great nieces and serving on committees and in Sunday school at First Baptist Oak Grove. Recalling her time at OGHS, Mrs. A stated, "When I started my tenure at OGHS, I had no idea what adventures were in store for me. One thing for sure, I will cherish these memories for the rest of my life." Numerous Panther cheerleaders and students claim the same about Mrs. A and her influence.