

Latta Public School is honored to announce their 2020-2021 Retirees



Mr. Ronnie Clifford is retiring from Latta Public School after twenty -one years of service in public education.

Mr. Clifford graduated from Tupelo High School in 1972. He is the son of the late Mary Clifford. Mr. Clifford states, “ My mother, Mary Clifford, was the center of my life until she passed away on November 5, 2013, at the age of 99. I will always miss my wonderful mother.” He is the twin brother of Donnie Clifford whom he admires and is grateful towards for sacrificing his own home in Union Valley to move closer to help with their mother as she aged. He also has four older sisters, two older brothers, and nieces, Linda, Bessie, and Kay who he

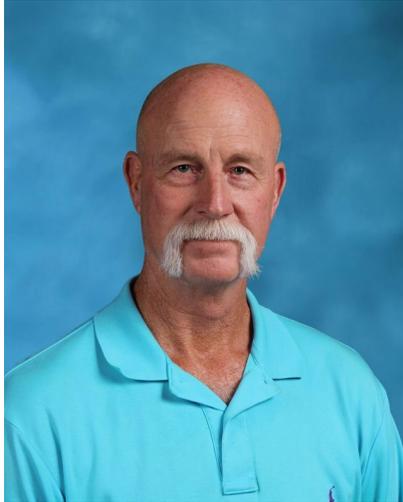
loves dearly.

Mr. Clifford has been a part of the Latta custodial staff for the last twenty -one years. During his first year of service, he worked part -time cleaning the old gym and the lunchroom . Since then, he has served the Latta district, students, and community in the elementary, sixth grade, and Bigham buildings. He received the Latta Apple Award in 2003 and 2018 in recognition of his outstanding service and dedication.

Mr. Clifford states, “Latta was the best job I ever had.” He loves his job with his whole heart and enjoyed serving others in any circumstance but especially enjoyed helping students and staff members locate lost items. He stated, “When the kids would lose something and I found it for them and they would be so happy I had found it, that made me feel really good and happy for them.” When asked to describe Mr. Clifford, many of his coworkers spoke of his unprecedented kindness, caring heart, innate goodness, selflessness, generosity, thoughtfulness, and willingness to help with or complete any task. Many are honored for the opportunity to get to know him and call him friend. In addition, Latta is forever grateful to him for always exhibiting Latta’s Core Values of integrity, honor, dependability, commitment, and accountability for their staff, students, and community.

Through his dedication and service, he has provided innumerable smiles, warm wishes, and fond memories to his coworkers and students that will be remembered for many years. Latta is proud of Mr. Clifford and wishes him many blessings in the years to come.

Congratulations on your retirement, Ronnie Clifford, and thank you for your service at Latta Public Schools.



Mr. David Tinkler is retiring from Latta Public School Is after thirty years of service in public education.

Mr. Tinkler is a graduate of Southeastern Oklahoma State University where he earned a bachelor's degree in Health and Physical Education. He later obtained a master's degree in Secondary Administration from East Central University and holds certifications in physical education, Oklahoma history, world history, U.S. history, and geography.

This is Mr. Tinkler's fifteenth year at Latta Public Schools where he completed his teaching career in social studies and health classes. During his time at Latta, he also served as a coach in basketball and baseball. Before teaching at Latta, he taught social studies at Rock Creek and Stonewall Public Schools. Throughout his career, his efforts and service to public education have been recognized by several awards. Coach Tinkler received the CocaCola Assistant Coach of the Year in 1994, the AllState Baseball Coach East in 2005, and the Region Six Coach of the Year in 2009.

He is married to his wife of thirty years, Maria Tinkler. Together, they have two children, Conner Tinkler and his wife Rikki, and Dylan Tinkler and his wife Ashton. They also have two beautiful granddaughters, Jordan and Lennon.

When asked why he chose to teach he responded that he "[enjoyed] the idea of knowledge for knowledge's sake. That is what teaching is. Constant learning. Learning when your students learn. They are educated in the classroom and hopefully in life skills."

He continued to say some of the best parts of teaching included, “having no regrets in [his] career choice and being able to coach and be with [his] sons every day. The students and friends along the journey [were] priceless and will always be in [his] thoughts and prayers.” He continued by saying, "Thank you all for making my education most rewarding.”

Congratulations on your retirement, David Tinkler, and thank you for your service at Latta Public Schools.