

# Lane Hampton

By Susan Hayes

Lane Hampton taught elementary special education students across five school districts for over forty-six years and over forty of those years were spent growing the children...and the teachers...of Crestline Elementary School.

Lane and I worked closely for many years,” remembers fellow special education teacher Allyson Land, “and she was an amazing educator to her core. She lived and breathed school.”

Land recalls often hearing Hampton asking anyone

who was worried or overwhelmed, “How can I help?” Land adds, “She meant it.” She was ready to jump in and offer help. She would tell anyone in distress that things would be okay, and she said it with so much care and conviction that those around her trusted that it *really would* be okay.”

Lane Hampton worked to educate the children under her care, and her first step was to genuinely care for those she was assigned to educate. When her students arrived at school, she greeted them at the door and told them to “come into the house.” And that house was not just a classroom where they would learn; it was a home where they would be loved.

Former Crestline Elementary Principal and Hartselle City Schools Curriculum Director Bobbie Long writes, “Lane attended workshops to enhance her teaching skills, was open to others’ suggestions, spoke with students’ parents and with their other teachers, and worked outside typical school-day hours to design lessons that ensured her students would achieve and that they would have everything they needed.”

Current Crestline Principal Karissa Lang concurs. “Lane Hampton’s commitment to the children who depended on her is that of a champion. She has spent her life as a champion for kids.”

It is not uncommon to hear someone say that you cannot be everything to everyone, but it seems that Lane Hampton was just that.



Lane made the most of her minutes. “If pressed for time when speaking with me, Lane would sometimes say ‘new tab’ and just jump to the next item on her to-do list,” recalls Principal Lang with a smile. She needed answers to best manage the things that mattered. And Lane was not one to waste a minute on the things that did not matter. She arrived at school each morning with hot rollers still in her hair. The hairstyle could set while she was making her important drive to Crestline. The rollers could come out in the seconds before her students were to arrive and after she was certain everything was in place for them to begin their day. There were needs to be met before her students could “come into the house.”

“Lane was the ‘go to’ for everything because everyone knew that she would have whatever they needed from copy paper to ‘a really good box’ to ranch dressing. And she kept every Dick and Jane book ever written,” fondly recalls retired HCS Occupational Therapist Anne Glasgow. HCS Physical Therapist Lisa Gault lovingly adds, “Lane used wooden clothes pins attached to her purse as her to-do list, and there were always reminders taped on the classroom walls around her.”

This seems to paint the picture of a teacher bumbling through her day with little direction, but Lane Hampton worked with absolute purpose. She met needs and was determined to remain equipped to respond to anyone in crisis when she posed the question, “How can I help?” Lane has always given of herself.

The younger teachers on Crestline’s campus grew from Lane’s example and her nurturing. Former Special Services Coordinator Lee Anne Pettey warmly remembers a Halloween dress-up day at Crestline. “Several young teachers dressed as Lane complete with curlers in their hair and Mississippi State t-shirts. Lane was surprised and so touched. I believe it was one of her favorite days ever.” Lane could see that the imitation grew from a place of affection. And though the dress-up day may have been the first one where teachers tried to physically look like her, teachers had been emulating Lane in their classrooms for quite some time.

Hampton’s service extended beyond the walls of her own classroom and beyond the Crestline campus. She served her community as the first president of the Hartselle Academic Booster Club and was on the planning committees for the construction of both Barkley Bridge Elementary School and F.E. Burleson’s Bethel Road school. She has also learned from fellow teachers across the region since 1981 as a member, and current secretary, of the Delta Kappa Gamma Society and has led a Sunday School class at West Hartselle Baptist Church for over twenty years.

A lifetime of service to children, to teachers, and to her community have led to this moment. It is with sincerity and admiration that the Hartselle Educator Hall of Fame inducts Amanada Lane Hampton. Mrs. Hampton, come into the house.

