



2018 Chauncey Willingham Award for Outstanding Dragon Faculty

Ron Behrends

Ron Behrends first joined Carroll ISD as the band director in 1978 fresh out of college at the University of Texas. In his first year, Carroll's music program was small ~ there were only about 38 students in the marching band and they even had to borrow a few kids from the middle school to form a "C" on the football field. Mr. Behrends' passion for music was contagious from the very beginning and by his second year the Dragon Band had already grown to 55 and they won the Class 1A championship at the first statewide marching band contest. Under his direction over the next three decades, the Dragon music program would grow to more than 1000 students participating in marching, concert and jazz bands. Behrends fashioned his music program to help students learn not only music skills but also leadership and teamwork ~ which are some of the strongest foundations of what it means to be a Dragon. His enthusiasm for the program and dedication to not only his band kids but all of the students at Carroll made him a legend. Mr. Ron Behrends retired from Carroll ISD in 2011 after 33 years, but will always be beloved and remembered not only for shaping our music program but more importantly for the impact he had then and still has today on current students and alumni.