

Joyce Wells came to us from Seattle where her family still resides. After earning her Masters in Holistic Music Education, Joyce started teaching in the Monticello schools as a second career. Prior to that, she taught music outside of the school system. Her special area of expertise is as a singer and voice teacher. Joyce taught at both Duggan and Cooke for three years before coming to Rutherford in 2007. She has taught general music and chorus, taken children to NYSSMA and All County, directed many concerts, and administered the Morning Music program once it became extracurricular.

Joyce has brought our community many wonderful musical events. One very memorable experience for our students was in 2012 when she invited her friend, Ann Campton Hallaway, to come to Rutherford and work with our students. Ms. Hallaway is best known for her Tony-nominated performance in the hit Broadway musical *Swing!* and for writing and singing the theme song to the hit TV series, *The Nanny*. She did a workshop on improvisation at the High School, and then taught the 4th grade chorus a song she had written specifically for them called "We Are the Hope of the World". It included a section in which some of them shared their ideas for what they would do to help the world. It was world-premiered by the 4th grade chorus that day and has been performed in Joyce's elementary concerts every year since.

Joyce also brought in Kenny Werner, a world-renowned jazz pianist and composer who teaches at Berklee College of Music; Christopher Williams, a master recorder player who taught a master class with interested students, dance instructors, and a professional French Horn player who demonstrated that instrument and inspired them to think about playing in band or orchestra.

In addition to teaching music, Joyce has practiced meditation for 45 years and is excited to have more time for that in her retirement. In addition, she has a beautiful cat and a lovely home, and looks forward to continuing with private students, volunteering, spending more time in Nature, and helping others. She would also like to get back into singing and songwriting. She is open to all of the possibilities that await! Thanks for the memories Joyce! Congratulations on your Retirement!