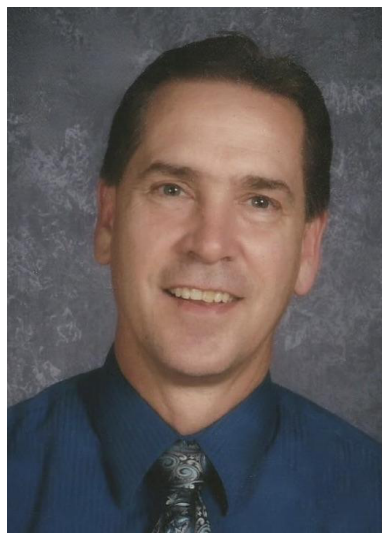


RICH EDDER



Rich Edder, the son of John and Marilyn Edder, is a 1980 graduate of Freedom Area High School. He also has two brothers who graduated from Freedom (Jerry – 1977 and Greg – 1985). The Edder boys grew up in Conway, where their parents relocated after their dad acquired a job in the Tin Mill division of the former J&L Steel Corp.

Rich thrived in three sports at Freedom, participating in football, basketball, and baseball and earning a combined seven letters. At quarterback, Rich led the WPIAL in passing in 1979. He was named first team Midwestern Athletic Conference (MAC) quarterback, Honorable Mention MAC punter, and an Honorable Mention Associated Press All State Quarterback. Rich was selected as the Male Athlete of the Year for 1980 at Freedom and was recently named to the Freedom Gridiron Greats (Class of 2018). Rich also ranked 33rd out of 198 students in his class and was a member of the National Honor Society.

Football success led to an opportunity to further his education at Westminster College. Rich was a three-year letter winner and led the Titans to two successive NAIA national semi-final playoff appearances. He finished as the school's second all-time leading passer as of 1984. Rich received First Team District 18 Quarterback honors for both 1982 and 1983. Rich also received Honorable Mention All American honors at quarterback his senior year. In 1991, Rich was selected to the Towering Titan Hall of Fame for Westminster College. Most importantly, the Education Department at Westminster prepared him for his future career.

In the early 1980s the mills began to close, affecting the population in Western Pennsylvania and therefore the teaching opportunities, so Rich began his education career in Florence, SC (1985) teaching Compensatory Reading. After one year, he moved to Florida and accepted a teaching position with The School District of Osceola County, where he was named the 1988 Teacher of the Year for Central Avenue Elementary School. He was a football coach for Osceola High School and the head basketball coach at Florida Christian College as well as an adjunct professor in their Education Department. He earned a Master of Science Degree in Educational Leadership from Nova Southeastern University. After 13 years, Rich received the opportunity to return to his alma mater to teach and coach. He taught 6th grade and coached football, baseball, basketball, and golf for Freedom as well as baseball for the Conway Community League.

In 2007, Rich accepted a principal position for Freedom working at Big Knob Elementary and later was also the principal for Conway Elementary and Freedom Middle schools. Rich was also an integral part of the process in 2015 that placed all district students at one elementary school on the district campus.

As an administrator, Rich enjoyed talking with teachers about instruction and how to encourage and motivate students to give their best effort on a consistent basis. Rich's passion at school was reading to and with students. Touching all learning modalities, Rich found reading to be the most interactive way to reach all students. He retired from the district in 2018 and now enjoys

working around the house, occasionally playing golf, and watching dirt track racing, but most of all spending time with his family.

He and his wife, Judy, have two children, Jennifer (married to Mark Lutz) and Ryan, and two wonderful grandchildren. Currently, Rich is employed part time as a job coach by Beaver County Rehabilitation Center (BCRC), teaching adults with disabilities to successfully acquire and maintain job skills.