

Constance Koehne
2001 Friend of Education

Constance Koehne is described as "a tireless advocate for the arts and for children." Over the past thirty-five years she has taught hundreds of Beaver Dam students to play the piano and appreciate music. For most of that time she was also on the teaching staff at Wayland Academy and served as Chair of the Fine Arts Department. Even though she is now retired from Wayland, Koehne maintains an intensive schedule to accommodate her many students' needs. Beyond the weekly lessons, Koehne contributes many hours to encourage and train gifted students who are competing for advancement opportunities. To help provide them with those opportunities, Koehne serves on the Wisconsin Youth Symphony Orchestra and Green Lake Music Festival Boards of Directors. She gives freely of her time to Beaver Dam District students by accompanying them at competitions and preparing them for many musical performances. She supports community organizations and activities that provide students with additional musical opportunities, and she contributes her time and expertise to Beaver Dam Scholarship Foundation fund-raiser programs. As the organist at St. Patrick's Church and other churches, Koehne rehearses with students to encourage their musical contributions to their church services. Koehne also role models community involvement and her commitment to music as a rehearsal and performance accompanist for the Beaver Dam Area Community Theatre, the Beaver Dam Area Orchestra, the Green Lake Festival of Music, and the Beaver Dam Oratorio Society. Koehne was recently honored by the Elgin, Illinois Symphony Orchestra for work in her early career as a professional pianist in the Chicago area. Former students, several of whom are highly successful professional musicians, attest to the positive impact Koehne has had and continues to have on them.