

## Marsha Elizabeth (Denney) Manning



<https://www.dignitymemorial.com/obituaries/springfield-va/marsha-manning-11922151>

Marsha Elizabeth Manning, passed away on August 1st, 2024, in Springfield, Virginia. Born on April 20th, 1946, in Bloomington, Illinois to Oswald and Betty with her sister Pam. Marsha was the beloved wife of Paul Frichtl, the cherished mother of Doug, Wendy and Betsy, stepmother of Josh, Kate and Kristin, and grandmother to 12 grandchildren, Jacob and Nathan, Elle and Liv, Chloe and Jackson, Giosue and Victoria, Emma, Christian, Michael and Sophia.

Marsha grew up in St Petersburg, Florida, and graduated from St Pete High and then Florida State University. She began her teaching career serving as an English teacher at both Clearwater and Lakewood High School. After relocating to Virginia, Marsha began in Fairfax County Public Schools as an English teacher at Washington Irving Middle School in 1990. By 1999, she'd earned her master's degree in educational leadership from George Mason University and subsequently became an assistant principal at Mark Twain Middle School.

From 2005 to 2012, Marsha served as a founding assistant principal of South County Secondary School. In recognition of her exceptional leadership, she was named as founding principal of South County Middle School, where she built a culture of integrity and cultivated strong relationships with students, teachers, and her fellow administrators. Among the many accolades earned throughout her career, Marsha received the Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal Award in 2013 from Fairfax County Public Schools

A beacon of hope and optimism for all who knew her, Marsha dedicated herself to helping others reach for potential inside themselves, and found great meaning in nurturing young minds as a revered educator and administrator. Countless people were inspired by her wisdom and guidance throughout her esteemed life and career. She was wise, empowering and a fierce protector of her teachers. She was an advocate for public education and a visionary. Her professional legacy will be that of excellence and devoted service to young people in Fairfax County. Her impact as a mentor, leader and manager will be felt for generations to come.

We are forever grateful for the time we received with such an amazing role model, leader, mother and wife whose memory will always inspire us to keep moving forward with determination & grace!

Marsha's celebration of life will take place this Monday August 5th at Demaine Funeral Home located at [5308 Backlick Rd., Springfield Virginia](#) from 4:00 pm-5:00 pm followed by Memorial Remembrance Time for those who wish from 5:00 pm-6:00 pm.

*In lieu of flowers, contributions in Marsha's memory may be made to the ALS Association.*

## **Marsha received the Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal Award in 2013 from Fairfax County Public Schools**

### **Marsha Manning Named FCPS Outstanding First-Year Principal**

Wednesday, June 5, 2013

Marsha Manning, principal at South County Middle School, has been named the Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) 2013 Nancy F. Sprague Outstanding First-Year Principal. The announcement was made by FCPS Deputy Superintendent Richard Moniuszko at FCPS Honors, a ceremony for the winners of FCPS employee awards.

Manning, who was a subschool principal at South County Secondary (now High) School before being named principal at the new South County Middle School in 2012, is praised for developing a can-do culture at the new school. "Through Mrs. Manning's efforts, South County Middle School has something that ordinarily takes years to create—an identity," says parent Christine Morin. "This identity was forged by a leader who is truly 'in the trenches' with her teachers and students. It is executed by teachers whom she engaged and energized, and embodied by students who feed off of the positive vibe that fills the school."

Teacher Diane Wilson praises Manning for "maintaining strong connections with our former building" while creating "a unique sense of community. ... Her mission is always student-centered.

"Marsha understands the difficulties teachers face and she stresses employee wellness and a sense of fun in the workplace," continues Wilson. "Most of all, she encourages us to think outside of our comfort zone while providing resources for new initiatives and sharing feedback and appreciation for our efforts."

"We are proud to work in a building that puts learning first," say teacher nominators. "From the moment you pull into our parking lot, the pride and care are evident. Students and staff are stewards of our school." An eighth grade student adds that Manning is "a great leader" who "strikes the perfect balance between kindness and discipline." Another student describes Manning and "her phenomenal bond with her students" as "one of the best things about South County Middle School."

Science Department Chair Robert Ellis says that when Manning was announced as the new principal, "There was a long standing ovation. ... That kind of admiration for a leader is rare and precious. And, it doesn't come about without hard work, integrity, and exceptional passion."

Manning is praised for her leadership in moving from a secondary to a middle school[ program, involving all stakeholders in the conversation around change and growth, and harnessing the energy involved in opening a new school in a positive way.