



Jean Mylius Grady has been a presence in the Lakewood City Schools since the third grade when she and her family moved to Lakewood from West Virginia. She attended Lincoln Elementary and then went on to Horace Mann for Middle School. She is a member of the LHS Class of 1962.

After graduation, Jean attended Miami University where she earned her teaching degree in 1966. That same year, she began her career at Grant Elementary School on Warren Road. Three years later, she married and also helped open the 'new' Grant Elementary building on Victoria Ave. The 'new' Grant was a groundbreaking school concept that featured open classrooms and where a team-teaching approach was practiced. Jean and Martha Jane McNeil (Grant's principal at the time) helped train other teachers to prepare for this new style of teaching.

Interestingly, as a sign of the times, the school was divided into units that correlated with the space program. Jean taught in the 'Apollo' unit which housed third and fourth grades. She and her colleagues taught the essential curriculum but also collaborated to create musicals to facilitate learning in a more creative way. In the summer of 1970, she applied for a grant to create the "Grady Math" program which helped kids with their basic math skills. Her unique approach was adopted by the District and ultimately utilized in all ten elementary schools.

In 1972 Jean became pregnant with her daughter Katie (now a current Lakewood teacher), and she postponed her career to be a full-time mom. She stayed home for three years and then decided it was time to return to the classroom. Jean credits Martha Jane McNeil for helping her get back into the system. Jean remained at Grant until 1983 when she moved to Horace Mann Middle School where she taught sixth and seventh-grade language arts. She was initially unsure of the move to the middle school (as any elementary teacher would be), but an administrator told her "A good educator can teach anywhere". She trusted his advice and was very happy with the move.

In the 1980s, the Lakewood City School District was awarded a grant to initiate a State of Ohio program, the Occupational Work Adjustment (OWA) Program at all three of their middle schools as an alternative form of education for students who were not succeeding and at risk of dropping out. In 1987, Jean was hired as an OWA coordinator at Harding Middle School, where she taught OWA skills, language arts, and found employment for each of her students. Jean, as the consummate educator, got to know her students and their families, becoming a consistent, encouraging presence in their lives. She worked closely with other teachers to ensure that her students were succeeding in ALL academic areas. In addition, as a motivating activity, she developed a program for students to demonstrate their skills at a middle school OWA competition. As a result of her success, Jean was named the OWA coordinator for Northeast Ohio in 1993. Jean volunteered her time before and after school with Builders Club, which is and continues to be an arm of Lakewood Kiwanis that encourages students to improve the world one child and one community at a time. She also wrote curriculum and was active with the Lakewood Teachers Association.

Jean 'retired' after serving thirty-three years with the Lakewood Schools. For Jean, however, retirement meant signing on to substitute teach in the district for eight more years (sometimes in her daughter's classroom). She is now happily living in Avon Lake, and has been an active member of Avon Lake's United Church of Christ and has volunteered at Good Neighbor Thrift Shop for the past twenty-four years. She also continues to see many of her Lakewood co-workers on a regular basis.