

Barbara Willis

Barbara Willis taught a variety of classes during her tenure at GCA. Serving at the school from 1989 to 2005, she taught business education, computers, economics, consumer math, and keyboarding. A dedicated educator and loving teacher, Barbara passed along practical life skills to her students. The following tribute is a compilation of the thoughts of many of Barbara's students.

The common thread that you'll hear from us is that Mrs. Willis cared about us. She wasn't just fulfilling her job as our teacher; she genuinely invested herself in getting to know us as individuals. She cared about our dreams and about our fears; she cared about our success and our failure. We felt her love and support inside and outside of the classroom.

In the classroom, she taught us practical skills that we all use to this day, like balancing a checkbook and navigating a world of ever changing technology. Mrs. Willis embraced new technology as it was introduced into the classroom, and she taught us to do the same. She inspired us to become all that we could be. In a loving way, she pushed us to become successful men and women.

Outside of the classroom, she treated us like family. Her home was always open. In addition to inviting us to her home, she planned ice skating, camping, and other trips that provided us with a chance to get off campus and relax.

She made us feel special. One way she did that was giving you a card on your birthday. She never seemed to miss anyone's birthday. She also was attentive to our problems. Mrs. Willis was always there to listen to us and offer words of encouragement if we were struggling. She prayed for us and with us.

It is always a delight to come back to alumni weekend and see Mrs. Willis. Her face lights up when she sees one of us, "her kids." She takes the time to find out where we are at and what we are doing. She genuinely cares and we know it. And when you have someone believing in you, it makes all the difference in the world. Mrs. Willis has been the catalyst for many of us to boldly go out into the world and impact it for good. May we be the Jesus to others that she was to us.

