



## Marianne Cychowski Wheeler

June 9, 1959 - April 16, 2020

Marianne Cychowski Wheeler, of Nashville, passed away on April 16, 2020, at the age of 60. She was born in Valdosta, GA and grew up in Germantown, TN where she graduated from Germantown High School. She attended Memphis State University for her Bachelor's degree, and Michigan State University for her Master's degree in Music Education. She spent her career as a band director: teaching and inspiring students in Mississippi for 18 years at Hernando Middle School, and then in Tennessee for 6 years at Dyer County Middle & High, and 12 years at McMurray Middle School. She was a member of St. Edward's Church, participating in the choir and handbell ensemble. She loved her family and loved to spread the joy of music. She is survived by her loving husband, Ashley Wheeler, of 25 years, and son, Alex Wheeler. She is also survived by her mother, Pauline Cychowski, her siblings Louise Goodale (Eugene), Matthew Cychowski (Teresa), Patti Wiley (Raymond), Catherine Storms (John), Stanley Cychowski (Sue) and Edward Cychowski (Melissa), as well as many nieces, nephews and cousins. She was preceded in death by her father, Stanley E. Cychowski, in 2013. A private visitation, funeral service, and entombment will be held at the Memorial Park Funeral Home & Cemetery in Memphis, TN. A celebration of life will be held at a future date when arrangements can be made.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the Music Makes Us organization of Metro Nashville Public Schools (MNPS) – <https://musicmakesus.org/donate>, or the charity of your choice. You can also view a news piece aired in remembrance of Marianne at <https://www.wkrn.com/community/community-remembers-beloved-mcmurray-middle-school-band-director/>.

A link will be posted below to view her service when it becomes available.

<http://webcast.funeralvue.com/events/viewer/28061>

# Cemetery

---

## **Memorial Park Cemetery**

5668 Poplar Avenue

Memphis, TN, 38119

# Comments

---



“ Im here to thank Marianne for her teaching and guidance. God Bless her and her family. My heart is broken to hear of her passing. I had no idea. Marianne taught me drumming technique and rudiments. I built a career as a professional musician and am now a four time grammy nominated recording artist. Thank you, Marianne for your love and passion for music, and wonderful teaching. I am eternally grateful.

Your Student,  
Cody Dickinson

**Cody Dickinson** - March 11 at 06:39 AM

---



“ Hi, Marianne. Time has passed, but I find myself looking for you and grief resurging. I imagine your family continues to hurt and be amazed at your impact. I send blessings to all of you for healing and continued feelings of love and support even now. We worked closely at McMurray, but didn't have to...that was her doing. I'm the librarian. She didn't have to. I miss her. I send love. I continue to be amazed and inspired by her legacy, by all of you posting. Thanks for bringing your love. It matters more than any of us realize.

**Shannon Lawson** - May 27, 2020 at 10:29 PM

---



“ To Marianne Wheeler's Family: Please accept my deepest condolences for your loss. I am absolutely in shock and deeply saddened. I met Marianne when she was teaching at Northview Middle School and Dyer County High School in 2005. I was at Three Oaks Middle School and Dyer County High and we, along with Marshall Key, taught HS Band. I was always impressed by her work ethic and she was forever working on stuff at home, sometimes until midnight I'm told. Even after she had moved to the Nashville area she contacted me a couple of times about former students and checked in on them. She was one of those teachers who kids are just drawn to. I'm so sorry for your loss. Praying for you in the days ahead.

Tony Hendren  
Band Director  
Northview Middle School  
Three Oaks Middle School

**Tony Hendren** - April 24, 2020 at 10:54 AM

---



“ Mrs. Wheeler was my 6th-8th grade band teacher. She was kind, fun, and taught me well. She caught that I was having a hard time seeing the board and needed glasses, motivated me to excel and grow in my love for percussion, and let me help her do little tasks and reorganize how I thought best so I wouldn't become impatient while she worked with the winds. She truly made middle school band an amazing experience! I sometimes still laugh at some of the funny things she said and did to keep up on our toes. She will be missed.



**ReBecca Permenter** - April 24, 2020 at 08:21 AM

---



“ I was in Mrs Wheelers first teaching job at Hernando Middle School. She taught me to love music. Because of her effort teaching me, I was able to go to college and become a nurse. Thank you Ms C!!!

**Lori Cox Hood** - April 24, 2020 at 12:05 AM

---



“ Lovely One Spathiphyllum Plant was purchased for the family of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler.



April 23, 2020 at 04:56 PM

---



“ 2 files added to the album Memories Album



Revva Wheeler - April 23, 2020 at 03:26 PM

---



“ Mrs. Wheeler never missed an opportunity to demonstrate love to others. Her generosity, heartfelt handwritten notes, and constant invitations to join her for a meal( which she often insisted on paying for) were endless. She was an advocate of all things just, fair, and right and consistently modeled the Christian faith that she proclaimed. She was JOY!

Whether it was volunteering at Last Minute Toy Store, participating in the Healthywage Challenge, or bringing a dish for the annual Soul Food luncheon, I knew I could always count on her support. She was my consummate cheerleader! In return, I would frequently attend her band concerts and show her pictures I had snapped afterwards to prove that I was there supporting her program. I also was thrilled to join her on band fieldtrips...she wanted her students to have every opportunity to learn more and spared no expense to take them all over Music City. My favorite memory may well be the day we went to Planet Fitness. I asked her to stay quiet while I pulled a few strings with the employee at the counter to let her inside even though she was not a member there. My planned worked! Now, we did way more chatting than exercising that day, but it was quite the outing. Just imagine Laverne and Shirley at the gym.

There are so many things I will miss about Mrs. Wheeler, but I think I will most miss her strolling into my room and breaking out in song. Most recently, she would serenade me with, " Her name was Lola.....Lola Falana...." Her beautiful voice and beaming smile were always a spirit lifter and we would usually conjure up a laugh. To her family, who she absolutely adored, I continue to pray for each of you during this difficult time. Please know that she is missed deeply, already, and I can't imagine returning to work without her being there( I was already dreading her retirement for that reason.) I loved her and it was my honor to have her for so many years as a colleague and a sweet friend.



Lola Neal - April 23, 2020 at 03:26 PM

---



“ Marianne was a kind soul. She was one of the first friendly faces I saw at my first district meeting 16 years ago. May you rest peace my music friend. You will be missed.

Amy McKinney

Amy McKinney - April 23, 2020 at 02:15 PM

---



“ I have only known Mrs. Marianne Wheeler for few months but I am so thankful I got to know her. She was very welcoming and kind when I started at McMurray Middle back at the end of January as one of the new Ex Ed teachers. Since then she always made an attempt to say hello and check in and even just a smile. I admire her love of teaching and the way all the students respected her even if they were not in her band class. I will always remember her for being so kind to our class especially during a difficult time at the being of March. Rest in peace

Lainey Harrison - April 23, 2020 at 12:59 PM

---



“ Marianne is a former Antioch HS Band Parent. She was heavily involved in her son's band career and remained involved years after his graduation, all while involved in her own school teaching and family. The Antioch HS Band would like to offer their condolences to her family and say THANK YOU for such a positive, helpful, and kind servant to everyone, especially the AHS Band.

As a fellow MNPS band director, Marianne was always about her students first. From caring about their well being, offering them assistance, being a shoulder to cry on or ask for advice, her students trusted her and knew they were loved. She had such a positive impact on them and they will never forget her care for them.

-Frank Zimmerer, Director of Bands, Antioch High School

Frank Zimmerer - April 23, 2020 at 12:16 PM

---



“ Dear Marianne,  
Dear friend, It's hard to express how I feel now that you are gone. Thank you for being such a beautiful friend. We shared an hour almost every weekday, of conversation, as we rode to school together. So many memories all the little things, even just the way you rolled your bag in and out of school, or the way you would sometimes hop onto announcements and sing a song. We worked hard together in our Healthy Wage challenge. You were truly inspiring. You were always willing to lend a hand. Always had a beautiful smile on your face. We laughed together and cried together. We went to the gym together, tried out water zumba together, travelled to see color guard together, went to band events together. No matter the situation, even the toughest ones, like trying to teach band in a blistering hot, tiny portable with 60 students, you were always positive and giving your all for your students. You never knew a stranger and you always cared for your students. You were always willing to transport them to sports games in your van. You were always stocking snacks in case your children were hungry. You were always talking about how much you were proud of Alex and enjoyed your dinners together. You were always talking about Ashley your dear husband. You were always talking about the rest of the family, about her band family from high school and as a teacher. I could go on forever...There is definitely a big whole left by Marianne. All my love and prayers to Ashley, Alex and the whole family.

Sarah Warburton

Sarah Warburton - April 23, 2020 at 12:15 PM

---



“ Marianne is the reason I became the person Who I am today and the reason why I had made so many great friends that I have to this day. God bless her and her family She will be missed dearly.

Jose Moreno - April 23, 2020 at 12:06 PM

---



“ Stefanie Webster lit a candle in memory of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler



Stefanie Webster - April 23, 2020 at 11:58 AM

---



“ Marianne was one of the kindest, most optimistic, most caring human beings it has ever, in my long life, been the privilege to know. Our classroom doors were a hundred feet away from each other and she never hesitated to greet me with a smile. She will be missed by all the children whose lives she touched, and by all her colleagues over the many years. I can't imagine returning to the school building without the prospect of seeing her smile. Rest in peace, friend.

**Scott Merrick** - April 23, 2020 at 10:58 AM

---



“ 2 files added to the tribute wall



**Ashmi Sinha** - April 23, 2020 at 10:43 AM

---



“ Marianne was one of the sweetest souls I have known. I am a Special Ed. teacher at her school. She was always so kind and supportive of my students. She was also a very dear friend to me.

Judy Whalley

**Judy Whalley** - April 23, 2020 at 10:21 AM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Terri Wheeler** - April 23, 2020 at 10:17 AM

---



“ I will miss Marianne. She was one of the first friends I made when we moved to Germantown. We had both just moved there from Illinois. We spent a lot of time together during high school. She was an amazing person.  
I made a donation in her memory to the Music Makes Us charity because I knew how important it was to her that the each student was able to get instrument of their own to play.

You are missed



**Maureen Meeks** - April 23, 2020 at 07:57 AM

---



“ I will miss her coming into my clinic at the end of the school day to chat.  
"Nurse"Kathleen

**Kathleen Powers** - April 23, 2020 at 07:21 AM

---



“ I don't know what to say....Marianne was just such a precious soul. Her son Alex and my son spent many overnights on birthdays together from elementary on up to college, where they were roommates. Marianne was always so giving and full of life and love. When we would go see the boys at college events, she and Ashley would invite me along to dinner, or offer to, or help me in any way they could. And DJ too. Marianne was such a genuine, wonderful, wonderful person. Always smiling, always positive! We had intentions of getting together in Nashville and I regret we never did, however, we would run into each other at the gym, give big hugs and catch up on our lives and the boys' . She was soooooo proud of Alex and all that he had accomplished, and DJ too! Like others have said, she took all the kids in as her own! I do know she was looking forward to Florida...I'm one of the first she told and she was so excited for the new chapter she and Ashley would share. My hope is that Alex and Ashley will be able to find comfort in the positive impact Marianne made on everyone around her, and that she will be living on in their souls as encouragement and strength and wisdom to face what's ahead of them in the rest of the journey. My heart goes out to them at this tremendous loss. RIP Marianne, and Alex and Ashley and the rest of the family, I wish you comfort and peace during this difficult time. Will keep your whole family in my prayers....Much Love to you..



Anne Young - April 23, 2020 at 02:23 AM

---



“ A friend who had a great disposition, fun to be with and a musical gift. Blessed to have known her.

David Lutey - April 22, 2020 at 11:00 PM

---



“ Dear Ashley & Alex.. Feel so helpless being in isolation in Ohio. We love you and will miss Marianne. What a beautiful woman.. wife .. mother..teacher..and cousin. God bless. Love cousin Sue & Mark

Susan Wheeler Surprise - April 22, 2020 at 09:43 PM

---



“ Simply Elegant Spathiphyllum was purchased for the family of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler.



April 22, 2020 at 09:06 PM

---



“ Marianne was a very good friend of mine in spite she taught 2 of my boys band.

We were invited to several family gatherings at her house. The whole family made us feel like we were part of the family. Thank y'al very much. My thoughts and prayers are with y'all.

She was so loved by anyone that meet her. There will be a star shining brighter tonight.

**Mary Ann Walker** - April 22, 2020 at 08:14 PM

---



“ Mary Ann Walker lit a candle in memory of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler



**Mary Ann Walker** - April 22, 2020 at 08:08 PM

---



“ Brenda Amos lit a candle in memory of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler



**Brenda Amos** - April 22, 2020 at 08:08 PM

---



“ 1 file added to the album Memories Album



**Matthew Cychowski** - April 22, 2020 at 04:11 PM

---



“ Stan, Sue, Dennis and family purchased the Lavender Reflections Spray for the family of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler.



**Stan, Sue, Dennis and family** - April 22, 2020 at 01:01 PM

---



“ Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Marianne Cychowski Wheeler.



April 22, 2020 at 12:25 PM