



## Kimberly K. Wheeler

October 12, 1957 - August 4, 2017

Kimberly Wheeler was born to Martha and David Simpson on October 12th, 1957. That day the world was gifted an incredible woman, who was always ready for an adventure and would forever impact countless lives. On Friday August 4th, 2017, with family near, she passed away. Kim loved being a wife, mother, teacher, aunt, sister, and friend. She gave everything she was to helping guide others the best way she knew how, and many of us will never forget the lessons she imparted. Monday and Tuesday visitations will be held at Dryer Funeral Home in Holly, MI. Then on Wednesday, August 9th, we will gather at St. Jude's Episcopal Church in Fenton at 11AM to celebrate Kim and remember the moments we shared with her. Memorial donations may be made to Paterson School, P.O. Box 189, Paterson, WA 99345. [www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com)

# Previous Events

## Visitation

AUG 7. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home  
101 First St  
Holly, MI 48442  
(248) 634-8291

## Visitation

AUG 8. 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM (ET)

Dryer Funeral Home  
101 First St  
Holly, MI 48442  
(248) 634-8291

## Service

AUG 9. 11:00 AM (ET)

St. Jude Episcopal Church  
Fenton, MI

# Tribute Wall

DP

“ My heart is broken as I just arrived home from vacation, opened the paper and saw my dear friend has gone, much to early. I first met Kim in the 4th grade and became best friends. Martha was always mad at me for throwing Kim's shoe in the toilet but I just opened the door and threw it in not knowing where it would land. We lived close by and would do everything together. I remember having my first kiss at your house while playing "spin the bottle". And our bikes! They took us everywhere. I remember the time when we were downtown Fenton and you turned right while my bike handles hooked to your seat and I flew off. We grew up together, always supporting each other and you never had a bad word about anyone. You have always been my date for our Class Renunions and I will so miss you. Jess and Chris your Mom was so proud of the Individuals you have grown into. She will always live in your hearts. Val and Jennifer, you had the best big sister who loved you. In everything you do, make her proud. And my dear buddy Kim, Thank you for being the best friend to grow up with. I will see you again and ride our bikes, laugh and drink A&W Rootbeer. God speed Kimmy. You were a Angel that I will always remember and Love.

*Daelyn Pierce, Fenton Mioh*

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**Daelyn Pierce** - August 11, 2017 at 06:53 AM



“ *Kim..*

*You were my best friend and confidant in college and after...I will cherish my memories of you and I stealing our lab rat from the bio dept. (hiding the dead thing in MY purse)to study for our final...our camping trip to Tobaamory, and our endless nights in Greek Town....Not sure shich of our many apartments have more stories and secrets And how we got ticket to the RNC convention for Regan...now that was a story! ....*

*You were the light in everyroom you entered and I was blessed to have you in my life...all that knew you loved you ...including my curmudgeon old dad...had to smile when you asked for the sacred pretzels he hid under his chair....no one was supposed to know that was his secret hiding place...*

*You will be in my heart forever ...*

*My deepest sympathy to Bruce, Jess and Chris and all of her family and friends...*

*Beth*



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**Beth Wolf** - August 09, 2017 at 11:01 AM

JM

“ *Kim was an good teacher and always showed great compassion for her students at Holly High School. She taught Social Studies and psychology. We had a lot good conversations between classes. RIP KIM.*

*Joe Mishler*[http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com/store/?icn=desktop\\_tribute\\_wall\\_tab\\_top\\_link](http://www.dryerfuneralhomeholly.com/store/?icn=desktop_tribute_wall_tab_top_link)

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**Joseph Mishler** - August 09, 2017 at 08:04 AM

MP

“ I worked closely with Kim when she first came to HHS as a temporary special ed teacher. When she moved to social studies, we team taught a history class in the portables at the old high school. Kim was always a caring and dedicated woman with our students. She always asked about my family and daughter and showed a real interest in the people around her. I was lucky to have known her and will miss her. I am unable to come to the funeral, but friends and family will be in my prayers.

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mary powers - August 09, 2017 at 07:20 AM



“ Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.



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August 08, 2017 at 08:58 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.



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August 08, 2017 at 06:23 PM

RB

“ Sweet Kim and I became fast friends in high school. We spent wonderful times at our family cottage near Lake Michigan in our teens, spent the night on the beach because we were so brave. The fire went out, we were cold, shivering and laughing all the way back to the cottage. We had our senior trip together, flying to Key West, just the two of us, deep sea fishing with an older couple we met at our hotel, fried ourselves on the beach and shared easy joys and laughter. It was so easy with Kim. She was one of my bride mates in 1980. We lost touch through the years then reconnected on Facebook. Both educators who love what we do, we saw each other a couple of years ago when she was in Traverse City with a school group. We shared coffee, caught each other up on our lives and vowed to keep in touch. It was as if we just picked up so effortlessly. I loved her dearly, it was easy to do. Her gentle smile, loving spirit and joyful outlook, drew people to her.



*My deepest sympathy to her family, her friends, students past and present. She was a treasure. May she rest peacefully.*

*Rasa Evans Baker  
Lake Ann, Michigan  
1974 Fenton High School*

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**Rasa Evans Baker** - August 08, 2017 at 03:17 PM

BC

“ Barbara Austin Castle lit a candle in memory of Kimberly K. Wheeler



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**Barbara Austin Castle** - August 08, 2017 at 03:00 PM

DS

“ As a colleague, I'll miss Kim's integrity and engagement with her students. As a friend, I'll miss her laugh and general goofiness around the building. Her legacy will come in the coming years as her influence shows up in the hundreds of student lives she touched. She was a good one, that Wheels.

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**David Stanley** - August 08, 2017 at 12:55 PM

AB

“ You and your family are in our thoughts and prayers this day.

*Adam Billmeier*

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**Adam Billmeier** - August 08, 2017 at 07:05 AM

LH

“ Mrs. Wheeler is the single most teacher that impacted me through my high school education. Her students were more than just that to her, they were each individuals with whom she encouraged and built trusting relationships. She was easy to laugh with and made learning inspirational. I will never forget how, on the day that 9/11 occurred, I was in her psychology class and she turned on the news for us to keep updated. We were still kids stuck at school without our own family and we were scared. We did not understand what was happening and her reassuring face was what I remember about that day. I am sure her deeper concerns were about being with her own family, but she did not show that. She knew what we needed were words of love and support and she offered that to us. I will forever be thankful for her and the impact she made on me.

*I was also lucky enough to know her children as friends and I have no doubt that all of her wonderful qualities will live on through them, as they were her pride and joy. I send my prayers and condolences to all of her family and friends.*

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**Leah Host** - August 07, 2017 at 09:56 PM



“ *Sapphire Skies Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



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August 07, 2017 at 04:16 PM



“ *Mr. & Mrs. Stanley DeLisle purchased the Florist Choice Bouquet for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



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**Mr. & Mrs. Stanley DeLisle** - August 07, 2017 at 04:13 PM

JS

“ Well, there is no denying, Kim’s contagious laughter—not only memorable, but joyful. One could hear it in the Paterson School hall and from her room (even if the door was closed). Nearly every day after Kim and the teachers made sure all the kids had gotten on the right bus to go home, she and her colleagues spent several minutes talking and laughing about the day before returning to their rooms. It was a pleasure to hear those voices and witness the affection they felt for one another. It’s a gift to be part of community that not only says, “We are like a family” but actually “becomes family.” Kim was such a catalyst, a gift to Paterson students, staff, and families. And as so many staff members said, “We just never did that until Kim got here!”

Whenever I talked to Kim, at some point in our conversation, she’d say and maybe repeat, “It’s all good.” Naturally, most of the time, I would apply the phrase to the topic of the moment; however, now I know it was bigger than that moment as well—it’s simply the way she lived and what she believed. For Kim, in things small and large, ordinary and ephemeral there were few distinctions.... “It’s all good.”

Before she flew back to Michigan this spring, Kim had a long talk with her third graders. She reminded them about their theme for the year “Be better every day.” It was a lesson with laughter and tears since they knew Kim was sick. At the end of that day, Kim wrote a reminder to her students in the center of room 105’s whiteboard: the word “Be” and underneath it she drew a heart, then she signed “Mrs. Wheeler”. It’s still on the board.

Kim, we will miss you but not forget you. So often we need those seemingly modest reminders, those reasons to weep and laugh and acknowledge what you knew and certainly wanted us to know—“It’s all good.”

John Seaton, Superintendent  
Paterson School District

**John Seaton** - August 07, 2017 at 02:11 PM

SD

*Miss Messed,  
(late 4th & 5th grade teacher from Holly Elementary School, and her daughter, Susan (Cornish) Davis  
Or hearts go out to all the Staff, and Students, as well as all of Kim's family.  
Or deepest Condolences*

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**Susan (Dinsmoorr) Davis** - August 07, 2017 at 08:10 PM

BB

“ *I had the absolute privilege of knowing Kim as a friend, a neighbor and a colleague. Her sense of humor, her passion and her zest for life were an inspiration. I've been hearing her beautiful laughter in my head for the past couple of days; it wasn't just a laugh -- it was an expression of the joy of living. Bruce, Jessie and Chris, she loved you with a fierceness that was all-encompassing. Your happiness was her happiness, and your sorrow was her sorrow. I'm devastated that she has left you much too soon, yet grateful that she managed to impart an incredible amount of wisdom during the time she shared with you. She had a beautiful spirit, and that spirit will live on in you, Jessie and Chris. Her love, fortunately, reached much further than her own family. Hundreds of students benefitted from the love and nurture she provided, as well as the skills and knowledge. I clearly remember when she mindfully decided to leave her former career and pursue her career in education. She wanted to make a difference in young lives, and indeed she did. She invested heavily in her students' academic, intellectual and emotional needs. She clearly recognized that, on any given day, she could be the person who could help to chart a child's course in a positive direction. I hope that you can cherish these incredible memories of her as you travel this journey of grief. My heart goes out to each of you.*

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**Barb Bloom** - August 07, 2017 at 12:35 PM

MB

“ As everyone will undoubtedly comment, Kim had joy that shone in her smile and her laughter. I was lucky enough to spend this last year with her here at Paterson School. There wasn't a better sound than her wonderful laugh down the hall. She and I talked about family and our kids so often. We talked about teaching and her students. We talked about Jessica and Chris. There is a saying, "Once you trust yourself, you know how to live." Kim taught that to everyone by the way she lived. She taught that to her students in the classroom and the teachers and the staff all day long. Trust in yourself. Be. Love. Enjoy. Risk.  
What an amazing blessing she was to all and what a special blessing she was to each individual. There are very few people in the world as amazing as she. My love and prayers to all of the Wheelers.

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**Monica Burnett** - August 07, 2017 at 12:02 PM

TM

“ para mi querida amiga que se llueva un pedazo de mi corazon solo la amo al igual que mi familia vivira por siempre en nuestros corazones.teresa magana de carrizales y familia.una flor para otra flor.

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**Teresa Carzalas Magana** - August 07, 2017 at 11:53 AM

YG

“ Your Friends at Cuningham Group purchased the Emerald Garden Basket for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.



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**Your Friends at Cuningham Group** - August 07, 2017 at 09:59 AM



“ *IRS-Criminal Investigations. purchased the Peaceful White Lilies Basket for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



IRS-Criminal Investigations. - August 07, 2017 at 09:24 AM



“ *I worked with Kim for many years through her work with The Virtual High School. She was a true professional. She was always willing to do whatever it took to help her students succeed. She was a valued member of the VHS community. She will be missed.*  
*Susan Leavey*  
*Supervisor of Instruction, VHS.*

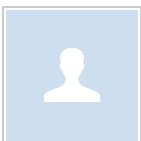
Susan Leavey - August 07, 2017 at 08:51 AM



“ *Bob And Kay Lacey lit a candle in memory of Kimberly K. Wheeler*



Bob and Kay Lacey - August 07, 2017 at 04:28 AM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



August 06, 2017 at 09:16 PM

BB

“ Our thoughts and prayers for those she left behind too soon. May every thought you have of her remind you of all of the moments you shared. May those memories help with the grief.

Brad Barber - August 06, 2017 at 09:13 PM



“ Arrive in Style was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.



August 06, 2017 at 04:28 PM

JS

“ My friendship with Kim began like love at first sight..... It all began with an innocent glass of red wine on our deck to get to know each other. Within a half hour, I knew I needed this woman in my life. Her positivity, her genuine interest in others, her love of family and her marvelous laugh set her forever in my heart as a dear and true friend. I will miss our Wednesday soup and wine nights next year, Kim, but you are forever etched in my soul.

Julie Rast Seaton - August 06, 2017 at 03:42 PM



“ Strength & Solace Spray was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.



August 06, 2017 at 01:42 PM



“ *Beautiful in Blue was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



August 06, 2017 at 12:49 PM



“ *When I was a student feeling lost, rebellious, and unmotivated, she gave me the best thing I could ask for. Trust and respect. When she became a colleague of mine years later, I could see it for what it really was: Love. Thank you for teaching me something vital that was not part of the curriculum. Eternally grateful, Mrs Wheeler <3*

**Clay Richard** - August 06, 2017 at 12:34 PM



“ *Kim was so kind to me. There were several times I felt like she really understood me! We had some wonderful conversations that I will never forget. Kim would often take time out of her day just ask how I was doing. She will be missed.  
Beckie Forthoffer*

**Rebecca Forthoffer** - August 06, 2017 at 10:25 AM



“ *Hey Weeller hows its going today for many years you made everyone smile and lots of laughter and kids loved you as i RIP my friend*



**Sally stotler** - August 06, 2017 at 09:46 AM

TY

“ *The Allens, Stuarts and Youngs purchased the Beautiful in Blue for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



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**The Allens, Stuarts and Youngs** - August 06, 2017 at 06:33 AM

SA

“ Kim came into our lives when our families were matched in an Anglo-American Pen Pal arrangement between our daughters' schools - Jessica and Laura. Immediately it was clear that the match was perfect. Our families shared the same values, and when we were invited to the Wheeler's home in Fenton, we were welcomed wholeheartedly. We all hit it off straightaway. Despite the huge distance between us geographically, we have all kept in touch for more than 20 years. We shared a wonderful holiday in Florida, and Jessica and Chris visited us in the UK. We have such happy memories to treasure. Kim was caring, attentive and fun to be with. One particular memory is of her very thoughtful gifts to our grandsons, who sadly she never had the chance to meet, but knew of them through the photos we sent. There was great excitement when a Christmas gift parcel arrived from The Wheelers, knowing that Kim had sent imaginative gifts for all.

At the beginning of this year we put Kim in touch with our grandson, Ayden's school in the UK, and with a teacher there, she had set in motion a Pen Pal scheme, which we fervently hope will continue in her memory. If just one of those children is lucky enough to link with a family in the US, as we did all those years ago, their lives will be enriched and an enduring friendship will be formed.

"A strong friendship doesn't need daily conversation, doesn't always need togetherness, as long as the relationship lives in the heart, true friends will never part ....."

Kim - we love you, and will miss you.

The Allens, Stuarts and Youngs

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**Sue Allen** - August 06, 2017 at 05:08 AM

DI

“ My roomy in College. Her laugh was contagious I miss you friend.

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**Debbie Igarashi** - August 05, 2017 at 09:54 PM

SN

“ I know I never met her, but my heart goes out to my friend Jessica. My condolences to the whole family. May you find comfort in each other.

Sarah Nainby

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Sarah Nainby - August 05, 2017 at 09:05 PM

Jack  
Barrett III

“ She was my psychology teacher in highschool. She was very open to new ideas and she was a great teacher. I enjoyed discussing the subject with her even after class every now and again. She always helped those who needed it, was very patient and thoughtful. She was among my favorite teachers there. She will be missed dearly.

The family has my deepest condolences.



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Jack Barrett III - August 05, 2017 at 08:40 PM

ME

“ We are so saddened by the great loss of Ms Wheeler❤️ Both of my daughters were so touched by her at Holly High School! She made a difference in their lives and she will be so missed! My daughter Katherine was in class with her and enjoyed her wonderful personality, wisdom and sense of humor. My younger daughter played guitar and helped her with a song Ms Wheeler wrote for a special friend. Maddie plans to go into Psychology in the fall at MSU. What a great loss when she moved from our school. She's going to be in our hearts forever! So sorry for your loss! You'll be in our prayers💕

The Elliott Family

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Michelle Elliott - August 05, 2017 at 08:24 PM



Courtney Blackwell

“ *When I was about to say a really hard goodbye back as a high school student. Mrs. Wheeler gave me this wisdom:*

*"Goodbyes are just as important as hellos when I hug you and say goodbye and I cry it means that you matter, this moment matters..."*

*I carry those words with me in my heart still to this day over a decade later. Mrs. Wheeler was a very special and wonderful human and I'm so blessed to have known her.*

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**Courtney Blackwell** - August 05, 2017 at 07:50 PM



“ *Florist Choice Bouquet was purchased for the family of Kimberly K. Wheeler.*



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August 05, 2017 at 07:48 PM



“ *Kim was always a wonderful, cheerful person to me when I would see her at the school after the kids left. I was thrilled to have my oldest daughter get to be one of her students. Kim taught my daughter some challenging lessons during their time together. She will be missed!*

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**Sandy Schaffer** - August 05, 2017 at 07:29 PM



Kevin Humphrey

“ *You were one of my favorite teachers. I'll never forget your Love of the Fray... Jamming out while driving. You made learning fun and I'll never forget you. Thank you for an amazing high school experience.*

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**Kevin Humphreys** - August 05, 2017 at 07:26 PM



“ I'm completely saddened by this.. I loved Mrs. Wheeler.. She was a huge part of my high school years.. I had the pleasure of not only having a teacher student relationship but a personal one as well.. She helped guide me through some difficult times.. I was her student aide also.. I love you Mrs. Wheeler.. RIP until we meet again .. Love Carrie Petiprin

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**Carrie Petiprin** - August 05, 2017 at 07:20 PM