

## Mary, Cap, and Kate Sharples Memorial Scholarship



Mary Jensen Sharples was the daughter of Danish immigrants. Her parents stressed to her the importance of education. Mary raised Cap and his sister on a farm in Eastern Washington as a single parent. She managed the farm and taught in one room schoolhouses to make ends meet. Cap was her student in grades one through four. Mary told Cap from an early age how important it was that he go to college. He did.

After high school Cap followed a relative to Eugene, Oregon to help build a house. The house didn't get built but he attended the University of Oregon where he met his wife Kate. Coincidentally, Kate's father and grandmother were teachers. The apples apparently didn't fall far from the tree.

Kate and Cap both became teachers. Cap worked in the Coos Bay School District throughout his career starting as an elementary teacher then moving to MHS for seventeen years as a counselor and Guidance Director. Kate started her career as an elementary teacher in Coos Bay Schools. She loved her time working in the small country schools in Allegany and Coos River. Unfortunately, a severe economic downturn resulted in her being laid off from Coos Bay Schools. She landed on her feet in the North Bend School District where she completed her career.

Cap greatly enjoyed encouraging high school students to continue their education. He and Kate traveled to many states around the country, looking for colleges that MHS students might attend. Cap became a member of the MHS Scholarship Committee while he worked and continues as an active member since he retired.

Kate loved teaching students. She particularly enjoyed passing along her enthusiasm for reading, history, big projects, and her golden retrievers who were regular visitors to her classroom. Kate assists with the MHS Scholarship program by helping students complete the paperwork necessary to receive their scholarship awards.

Education was a vital part of the lives of Mary, Kate, and Cap Sharples. It is entirely fitting that this money will help a student further her/his education.

