

Sal Elder Jr. is the son of Susan and Sal Elder Sr. and older brother of Jessica and Lauren Elder. Sal has been a straight "A" student at Gardner Dickinson since kindergarten, graduating with high honors. He has competed for Gardner Dickinson's Odyssey of the Mind team for 4 years, most recently helping his team reach the state finals. Sal has been enjoying playing the trumpet for 4 years after a few years on the piano. He has been selected for "All County Band" for the past 3 years along with performing for NYSSMA for the past 3 years.

Sal was a member of the Boy Scouts of America for 9 years. He is also an active member of St. Michaels Church, serving as an Altar Server. He was recently nominated to attend the "People to People Leadership Summit" in 2010. His other interests, along with playing the trumpet, include 3-d computer graphics and computer programming. Sal will be continuing his education at Troy High School in the fall

Victoria Rose Wood, daughter of Mary and Tim Wood and sister of Bridget and Kateri Wood of Wynantskill are delighted in the announcement that Victoria has been named Salutatorian of the Gardner Dickinson class of 2009. Victoria has had a wonderful experience at G.D. She also won the New York State Foreign Language Teachers Association Award. Victoria is one out of ten 8th grade students in the state of New York to receive this award, and is the only student in the capital region to win. The Fulvi Love of Language Award is awarded to a student who demonstrates a distinguished level of understanding of a foreign language and is able to communicate effectively in more than one language. Victoria was honored for her exceptional skills in Spanish and received a \$50 Savings Bond from the New York State Association of Foreign Language Teachers. Victoria has maintained an average of 98.1% and took Regents Algebra. She will be participating in the Honors program at Troy High School this fall.

Mrs. Horacek has been working at Gardner Dickinson School since 2001 where she served as the Remedial Math teacher for the district. In 2005 she was reassigned to 6th grade, teaching English/Language Arts and Social Studies. She continues in this position today.

Mrs. Horacek has served the district as Eighth Grade Advisor, WTA President, and has been a member of several District Wide Committees.

Before coming to Gardner Dickinson, she worked for seven years at a nursery school in Grafton before taking over the business. Mrs. Horacek's love of education brought her to attend college as a full time, returning adult, receiving an Associates of Applied Science from Hudson Valley Community College and a Bachelor's Degree and Master's Degree in Education from Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts in North Adams.

Mrs. Horacek resides in Petersburg with her husband of 29 years. She is the mother of two children, and has one granddaughter.