

Kristy Gross

Candidate for Re-Election to WCTA's High School Member-at-Large position



Experience:

- Classroom teacher for 20 years, in elementary, middle, and high
- Worked as a teacher, parapro, or substitute in five different states due to my husband's service in the U.S. Air Force
- In 1997, began my career as a 4th grade teacher at Clear Spring Elementary, then moved around with the military, took some time off to be a stay-at-home-mom, and after my husband's retirement, came back to Washington County
- Currently teach reading intervention and supplemental instruction at North High School
- Hold certification in elementary, middle school ELA, science, and social studies, high school ELA, and Special Education
- In May, 2025, will graduate from Frostburg with a M.Ed. in Special Education

WCTA Background:

- Active member in WCTA for all six years of teaching with the county
- In my third year as building rep for North High
- Elected to fulfill the interim vacancy of the high school member-at-large position in 2024
- Standing member of the Bylaws Committee
- Standing member of the Negotiations Committee
- Member of this year's Calendar Committee, and helped to plan and draft the 2025-26 and 2026-27 WCPS calendars
- Participated in the Special Education Improvement Committee during the 2023-24 school year
- Attended the MSEA Summer Leadership Conference in July, 2024, taking part in workshops on collective bargaining and running for local leadership positions, in addition to collaborating with WCTA members in attendance as we planned an outreach and speaking campaign for a summer BoE meeting
- Attending the MSEA Collective Bargaining Conference Jan. 31-Feb. 1, 2025 in Annapolis
- Frequent activist for teachers at BoE and County Commissioner meetings

About Me:

Since I was a little girl, I knew I wanted to teach. My mother was a teacher, and her mother was a nursing instructor, so also a teacher at her core. I attended Washington County Public Schools, graduating from North High - go Hubs! - so I am honored to be teaching back at my alma mater. I have enjoyed seeing the ways our county schools have grown and changed over the years, and while many of these changes have been positive, I believe there is still room for growth, and I also believe that teachers need to be **trusted** and **treated as professionals**. Additionally, I believe that trying to meet eye-to-eye is always the best path forward when conflicts arise, but I recognize that sometimes taking a tougher stance and standing our ground on important issues are necessary to ensure that **fairness and equity are protected** and that the **rights of teachers and students are preserved**. I feel strongly about advocating for the best possible conditions for our valued educators and want to continue to advance what our teachers do, so that in the end, we can provide a world-class education to our students.

In my free time, I love to read, travel, play trivia, listen to music (and sometimes sing along!), and spend time with family, friends, and our pets. I also enjoy checking out local restaurants, breweries, and wineries, and I'm always up for karaoke or game night.