

2019 NPHS Distinguished Alumni

Mary (Huffman) Hepburn Class of 1968

Mary Jane Huffman Hepburn was born in North Platte, attended Cody Elementary and Adams Junior High. She is a 1968 graduate of North Platte Senior High.

Mary was managing editor of 'The Bulldogger', NPHS student newspaper in 1967 and worked as part-time reporter for the North Platte Telegraph in 1968.

She received her associate degree from Mid Plains Community College and was awarded 'Outstanding Student' in 1970. Mary's education continued at University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and she majored in journalism/education graduating in 1972.

In 1972, Mary's career began at Lincoln Southeast High School when she taught journalism. In 1973, Mary moved to Montreal, Canada where she created journalism programs for high school and taught those programs for four years. From 1978 – 81 she was an adjunct journalism professor at Carleton University in Ottawa. Also, she was a free-lance writer and editor for national publications, such as Reader's Digest.

While working in Canada, Mary was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

Mary moved to Washington D.C. in 1985. She worked for 10 years at the National Institutes of Health in Bethesda, MD as a communications writer/editor.

In 1995, Mary returned to North Platte. The following year, she began writing her own weekly column for the North Platte Telegraph.

Mary volunteered weekly at St. Pat's High School from 1998 to 2008, teaching journalism each Friday. Many of the students that Mary taught stay in touch with her today. Several of those students have gone on to write for national publications.

Mary still writes her column today and has written almost 1200 columns since 1996. In 2014 she was honored for her work, receiving the Women of Achievement Award in Cultural Arts.

