

Appreciates the beauty of this handmade book, made by one of her graduate students at Stritch. She began teaching classes as an adjunct professor in 1991. "Stritch has really supported me through all phases of my career."

DESK JOB

Reminds her to be creative in imagining ways the district can create opportunities for students. "So often, we don't dream big enough for kids."

Shows a photo of Sternke flanked by headshots of Vince Lombardi and Al McGuire. She said someone gave it to her to poke fun at her overly competitive personality.

2013 Wisconsin Superintendent of the Year Dr. JoAnn Sternke, '88, '11, Pewaukee School District

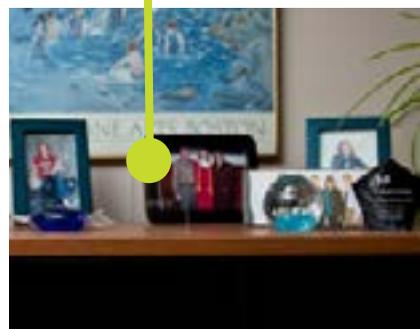
As a leader, JoAnn Sternke is a firm believer in "head, hand, and heart" working together to create opportunities for children. Finishing her 13th year in Pewaukee, she remains focused on the district's mantra – "opening the door to each child's future" – as she works toward building the relationships and systems that can make that happen. BY SARA WOELFEL



Surrounds herself with books, binders, and data. Peter Senge's "The Fifth Discipline" (on left), introduced to her in Stritch's doctoral program, "really resonated with me and focused on how you have to have your whole organization working together as a system to get better or those random acts of improvement just don't sustain over time."

Reminds her of her mother, who crocheted this bear.

Talks proudly of her family, including husband Craig, and three adult children – Matt, Christian, and Kate. Sternke said none of her kids followed her footsteps into the field of education as she followed her dad's, who was a university administrator for his entire career.



Displays the 2010 Wisconsin Forward Award, which recognizes that the Pewaukee School District reached the "Excellence" level, a distinction never reached by another district in the state. "One of the ways we are ensuring that the many processes in our district are meeting the needs of all students is through the Baldrige National Quality Program and the Wisconsin Forward Award Program."

Focused her Stritch doctoral dissertation on this book.

Shows her Pewaukee Pirates pride.

Listens to music on her computer all day. She prefers an "eclectic mix," including show tunes, John Mayer, Mary J. Blige, Barbra Streisand, Sugarland, and the Dave Matthews Band.

