

Q&A with Renee

Below is an exclusive excerpt from Renee's feature in Pro-Files Magazine



Renee Danette (Petrola)

Sixth-Grade Teacher (Retired)

Ms. Renee Danette (Petrola) devoted more than four decades to the field of secondary education before her recent retirement, and has been recognized as an Exemplary Educator of Who's Who Among Teachers. She was also featured in the inaugural edition of Pro-Files Magazine and named a Professional of the Year in Education in 2010.



Since 1970, Renee taught literature and writing classes to sixth-grade students of the Mount Sinai School District. She was also tasked with managing an intensive creative and research writing program, and encouraging students to become involved in competitive writing and poetry contests.

To support her qualifications, Renee holds a master's degree in liberal studies from Stony Brook University and a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Bethany College. She remained current in her field by maintaining professional affiliations with the Mount Sinai Teachers Association, the American Federation of Teachers and the National Education Association.

For more information about Renee, click [here](#) to watch her exclusive video and read her latest press release.

Q. How do you stay current in your profession?

A. I try to do the same assignments as my students. Right now, my class is doing a report on important people in history. I'm doing it too to understand the ups and downs of the assignment.

Q. Who or what has been your greatest professional inspiration?

A. People who write poetry and children's books that I have connected with inspire me. When I connect with literature, it makes it easier to figure out a technique to help my students connect.

Q. What time management tips can you suggest?

A. Try not to put off what can be done within a given time period. Act upon an idea immediately before it loses impact.

Q. What are your short- and long-term plans for ensuring your future success?

A. Keeping involved in new programs, and staying connected to the academic and social needs of the students I work with will ensure success on all levels, including theirs and mine.

Q. What is one characteristic that you believe every leader should possess?

A. A good leader recognizes all who is a part of the group by listening and recognizing that each member has a special skill.

