

## STORY OF SOUTHWESTERN MIDDLE SCHOOL

Olivia Deutsch, Faculty Member 2000-2009

I was hired by Mr. Presley in 2000 to teach 8<sup>th</sup> grade Language Arts. As a newcomer to Deland from a large middle school in Ft. Lauderdale, I was a bit apprehensive not knowing what to expect. However, looking back, my memories of Southwestern Middle School revolve around two treasured qualities, friendship and family. The faculty and staff of this outstanding school offered me friendship through the affability of the gifted teachers that I had the privilege to work with, and a sense of family that the entire staff nurtured through their whole-hearted support on good days and stressful days. Additionally, I was pleasantly surprised by Southwestern's eclectic atmosphere generated by its dedicated faculty. Each teacher and administrator was exceptional in his/her own way, and each individual was respected for his/her unique qualities to the benefit of all our students. After teaching at Southwestern for eight years, I retired in 2010. I consider myself lucky for having had the opportunity to work with such a gifted staff committed to the education of our youth. Although retired, I cherish the fact that I will always remain a part of the Southwestern Middle family.