**LESLIE TOMPKINS**

Leslie Tompkins, Class of 1972, was a popular music teacher and an effective administrator in White Plains High School for more than 30 years.

Born and raised in White Plains. Ms. Tompkins studied music with White Plains High School Hall of Fame Inductee Al Renino in high school. She attended Oberlin College Conservatory of Music majoring in French horn and music education. After earning a Master’s Degree in teaching she began her teaching career in Elyria, Ohio, where she taught all levels of band for ten years.

In XXXX?? Ms. Tompkins returned to White Plains to lead the high school band program. Although the instrumental music program had been exceptional under Mr. Renino, it had diminished considerably in terms of the number of students involved and their level of proficiency. Under Ms. Tompkins’ direction the program once again flourished, eventually growing to incorporate almost 200 students in three separate ensembles, and once again performing music at the most challenging levels.

After two decades of teaching in White Plains, Ms. Tompkins was given the opportunity to try something completely different.  She was appointed to the position of Director of Guidance, which afforded her an opportunity to work on behalf of students and families on a broader scale.

Ms. Tompkins immediately began to work with the guidance counselors to assess the needs of the community and the department.  As a result, additional counselors were added and classroom presentations provided all students with vital information regarding program, college and career planning.

In addition, monthly presentations were offered simultaneously in both English and Spanish for families about navigating the college application process and applying for financial aid. The department was recognized for these initiatives by named Counseling Program of the Year in 2015 by the College Clinic of Westchester, Putnam and Rockland.

Ms. Tompkins son, Michael, is a member of the White Plains High School Class of 2003.