Fleming marks four decades as SBHS teacher

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Scott’s Branch Middle-High School math teacher Lottie Fleming has been a passionate educator at the school for more than 40 years.

Growing up, Fleming said that she had always loved sports and had thought about pursuing a career as a physical education teacher. Daughter of Moses and Lucille Fleming, she grew up in Manning, graduating from Manning Training School in 1968.

Fleming said that in high school she had very good teachers, including math teacher Anne Curtin, who was an inspiration for her to go into that field.

She played basketball and softball and also was a cheerleader. Her coach and mentor while at Manning Training School was Premuel Gibson, who is currently head coach of the girls’ varsity basketball team at Scott’s Branch.

When she had been accepted into Allen University, her basketball coach was there to help her through finalizing the process of an admitted student.

“I am really grateful to Coach Gibson for being a mentor to me and for all of her help,” she said.

Fleming graduated from Allen University in 1971 with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics. She was offered a position at Scott’s Branch High School in 1972 as a math teacher. In her more than 40 years at the school, Fleming has taught everything from algebra I and II, geometry, statistics, pre-calculus and trigonometry to grades 9-12.

Fleming said that over the years she has enjoyed working with young people and seeing them become successful adults.

“It’s a great feeling to hear about all of their accomplishments,” she said.

Fleming has seen a lot of changes, including the construction of a new high school and improvement in technology.

“We went from using a slide rule when I first started teaching math, to using graphing calculators today,” she said.
Fleming said that she is looking forward to SBHS becoming a New Tech School of Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) School starting with the incoming 2013 freshman class. STEM is an alternative teaching model that will change the school’s curriculum to focus on a project-based learning approach that will combine various subject areas. Teachers within these classrooms will take on more of a facilitator role.

“It’s going to be exciting to see Scott’s Branch transform into the field of project-based learning,” she said.

Fleming said that she enjoys the team environment at the school.

“We are like a family here. Everyone works together and is supportive of each other,” she said.

Scott’s Branch Middle-High School Principal Dr. Gwendolyn Harris described Fleming as an exemplary educator.

“Mrs. Fleming demonstrates excellence in every endeavor,” Harris said. “She is an outstanding teacher who gives 100 percent and always does what’s best for the education of our students.”

Clarendon School District 1 Superintendent Dr. Rose Wilder said that Fleming is an experienced veteran at SBHS who is invaluable to the school.

“Mrs. Fleming has been there through the different times of the district’s history, the good and the bad, and has seen the district evolve into what it is today,” Wilder said. “She is one of the longest serving faculty members in the district who can be described as a living legend within our district.”

Fleming is married to Dave Fleming, and they have three children, Teresa, D.J. and Maurice and four grandchildren.