By Carolyn Lee
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After 32 years of teaching, 20 of those at Chase County Schools, Jane Lenners is eagerly planning life after retirement. She submitted her resignation as Title I teacher in the elementary school recently.

The Title I teacher is one who helps students with reading and math outside of the regular classroom. It's a government mandated, supplemental program.

"I'm like a cheerleader, reinforcing the skills they might have missed along the way," Lenners explained. "The object is to have them get out of the program."

Lenners graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 1977 with a Bachelor of Science degree in education. She first taught at Lakeview Elementary in Lincoln for two years, teaching Title I out of a storeroom.

She laughed recently, noting that she's ending her career teaching Title I out of a small room at CCS.

Lenners and husband Danny, who is a physical education and health teacher at CCS, moved to Imperial in 1980.

She taught grades three and four at the Lamar Elementary School for 10 years, then moved to Imperial Grade School as a third grade teacher for two years. Lenners then began teaching the Title I program.

She works with 38 students every day. What's most challenging about her job?

"Nowadays we're pushing our kids harder. They're learning at an accelerated rate," she stated.

Lenners really enjoys "following the kids as they grow into adults and how they mature." She said she's now teaching children of former students.

She has lots of favorite memories, mostly about keeping in touch with former students. One just called to tell Lenners she had just given birth to a girl.

At a track meet last year a 16-year-old former student ran over and hugged her.

"It's not the academic moments that are most rewarding," Lenners commented, "but the growth in the kid."

Lenners decided to retire at age 54 because her mother, who lives in McCook, needs more attention. She plans to continue to sell real estate for Moreland Realty, and also will be a consultant for Univera, a line of products that addresses aging, the health field and good nutrition.

Lenners and her husband, who is also Longhorn head football coach, an assistant high school track coach and junior high boys basketball assistant coach, have two sons.

Gabe is a junior at the University of Oklahoma, and Grant is a sophomore at CCS.