

Named Endowed Funds

The John Buytaert Family Fund



John “JB” Buytaert dedicated his life to education, both professionally and personally. As a lasting legacy to John, his wife, Karen (Van Halbeck) Buytaert, established the John Buytaert Family Fund within the Cloquet Educational Foundation.

John shared his extraordinary gifts with Cloquet students for more than 40 years teaching English, American history, geography, humanities, speech and journalism. His students remember him as having high standards and expectations. He encouraged them to work as hard as possible every day. Years before the college-in-the-schools program was offered in Cloquet, John conducted his classroom instruction with the “college prep” mind set. He was always available to help, encourage and guide each student in his or her learning process. He created a solid foundation for students leaving Cloquet schools in pursuit of a career or higher education.

Harold Shimmin, CHS class of 1966, recalls many of his classmates attended large universities and Ivy League colleges throughout the U.S. *“Mr. Buytaert prepared us for this future, because of him we had great success in our higher education experience which continued into our careers.”*

John and Karen’s four children Duane, Julie, Dale and Kay graduated from Cloquet High School; three of his 10 grandchildren currently attend Cloquet schools. When John unexpectedly passed away on February 17, 2015, the Buytaert family wanted to do something in his memory that would reflect his life work and interests. The John Buytaert Family Fund will help to carry on John’s steadfast service of education for future generations of students.