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**BEST TEACHER**

**Elizabeth (Beth) Hansel**



The winner for Best Teacher in the 2018 *Best of Monadnock Readers' Choice Awards* goes to Elizabeth (Beth) Hansel. Hansel is an English teacher at Keene High School, a director of the Keene High Drama Club, and a lecturer at Keene State College.

Hansel says that, as a teacher, you hope to have an impact on your students. "You may never know if you have an impact on someone," she says, but adds that she has heard words of gratitude from students in their adult years.

Originally from Columbus, OH, Hansel's mother was a teacher and her father an Episcopal minister. Her mother was very passionate about her work, which helped to mold Hansel's own love for helping

people and this chosen vocation.

Hansel has been teaching in one capacity or another for 25 years. She has worked with special needs students, has had the opportunity to co-teach with some of her colleagues, and is very involved in a number of committees both in and out of work.

"I really want students to become independent learners – to have a sense of independence and self-direction, to be lifelong learners, to expand their world," Hansel adds.

When she isn't teaching, Hansel can be found directing a Keene Drama Club performance, assisting in a New Hampshire Dance Institute event, or something else that has to do with teaching or theatre.