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## **Educators of the Year 2008: Sharon Wilkus, Almaden Country School**

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Sharon Wilkus enables her students to discover the artist within themselves. With a degree in art education from Indiana University, she relocated to California in 1973.

In addition to teaching art, Wilkus became a freelance artist designing and welding metal sculptures with themes from nature. She continues to bring her passion for the art of nature into the classroom, as she guides her students in creating three-dimensional ceramics, vivid still-life renderings in pastels, and a plethora of multimedia work. Under her tutelage, students from first through eighth grade enthusiastically develop and explore their unique talents. “Mrs. Wilkus has helped me to develop my artistic skills,” eighth-grader Caitlin Conlin says. “She

is very attentive and notices when I need help with something. She has taught me everything I know about art and how to draw.”

According to her colleague Melissa Edmunson, “Sharon is a team player who is always there with input at meetings or to offer a hand with something. She is a hard-working, dedicated teacher who invests many, many hours in school.”

Wilkus implemented an elective class in 1984 to produce Almaden Country School’s first yearbook. Since then, Wilkus has tirelessly continued as the yearbook adviser, producing a highly professional book brimful of memories for students every year.