School district's longest-serving teacher to retire after 47 years

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A beloved educator in the School District of Philadelphia will retire at the end of the school year after nearly 47 years.

Ernest Wilson started with the district on Sept. 1, 1974, as a teacher. He is the district’s longest-serving educator, said school at day will be June 15.

“The students growing up with teachers from elemen
tary school to high school,” Wilson said. “When I think of them, I get the same smile that my kids gave me,” Wilson said.

“I truly believe what has sustained me as an educa
tor is not the money, but the children,” Wilson said. “Knowing that the kids I taught over the years are successful, reaching their full potential, and inspiring others,” Wilson said.

“She also helps people who are not struggling by helping them see their future and strive for those aspirations,” said Dr. Mary Bell, Wilson’s principal. “She helps them see beyond what they can currently see on the

enrollment with her for the next few weeks. This helps Wilson thank her plans to be an educator,” Wilson said.

A native of South Philadel
phia, Wilson is a graduate of the City University of New York. She is currently teaching students at the Arthur School.

The students had a mix of reactions.

“This is very saddening,” said another student. “I will miss her as a teacher. She was great to me, and I hope she has a great career in the future.”

Wilson began a teaching career at the Henry H. Houston School in Mount Airy. After five years at Houston, she went on to teach at the Chester A. Arthur School in the Graduate Hospital area of South Philadelphia.

Wendy Storr, 7, and their mother Latio Storr at the opening of the Philadelphia Zoo in April.

Efforts are underway to welcome visitors back to Philadelphia as the hos
pitality industry works to recover economically from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The region’s tourism and hospitality leaders gathered with Mayor Jim Kenney as they launch initiatives designed to aid in the industry’s recovery.

“More people become vaccinated, more people are ready to travel and we are ready to welcome visi
tors back,” Kenney said during a press conference held at the Independence Visitor Center. “So one of the key ways of recovery of our restaurants and retail, of our cultural institutions, hotels and other hospitality business
eas we need to welcome back our visitors. He noted that before COVID-19, tourists spent $8.7 billion in the region, and the tourism industry generated nearly $1 billion in state and city taxes and revenue and supported 7,000 hospitality jobs in Philadelphia.

“COVID has impacted all of these numbers and it’s projected to take several years to fully recover from the impact of COVID,” Kenney said. “However, Philadelphia has a competitive edge in this industry and this summer starts the begin
ning of our recovery.”

Visit Philadelphia, the region’s official tourism board.