



MCDONOGH SCHOOL

Erica Seaman (1970–2025)

Erica Seaman, a beloved member of McDonogh School's infirmary staff, passed away on March 13, 2025, after a brave, year-long battle with cancer. Throughout her tenure, she was a constant and caring presence for countless students and adults.

Erica came to McDonogh in 2002. At the time, the infirmary was located in a small space in Jane Bay, the girls' dormitory. She began each morning preparing for the inevitable injuries by filling a cooler with ice from Lamborn Hall, the old dining hall located on the other side of campus. Then, when she was called for an emergency, she would grab the medical bag and literally run from Jane Bay to the site — wherever it was.

In 2013, her job became a bit easier with the opening of the Edward St. John Student Center, designed with a dedicated infirmary suite, complete with its own ice maker. By that time, she also had a pink golf cart to get to those in need as quickly as possible. All the while, Erica was responsible for the needs of more than 1,500 students and 200 faculty and staff members. Those numbers never fazed her, and she came to work every day with an abundance of energy and a determination to do her job to the best of her ability.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, she kept pace with the ever-changing public health education, lab testing, social distancing guidelines, quarantine monitoring, and vaccination management. She responded faithfully to the flood of emails and phone calls from parents and staff seven days a week, took charge, provided care, and supported us through a traumatic time. In 2023, she was recognized with the Dutch Eyth Teaching Chair for her professionalism, dedication, calm confidence, kind-hearted manner, and genuine tenderness toward everyone she encountered.

In 2024, Erica, the rock-steady foundation of the infirmary, found herself on the other side of the nurse-patient relationship, battling abdominal cancer. McDonogh's healer, confidant, teacher, counselor, advocate, and friend faced each treatment with remarkable courage and determination, bolstered by the love and support of her husband Philip, children Jonathan and Jada '19, and her McDonogh Family.

Her courage was inspirational. In the face of personal adversity, she set an example of what it means to grow more fully toward our better selves. In 2025, just weeks before her passing, she became the sixth recipient of the Irvin S. Naylor Courage Award. The award, established in 2004 by the Class of 1954, is given to members of the McDonogh Family who have shown "outstanding courage and exemplary persistence in overcoming adversity or personal challenges, and in doing so, have inspired our admiration, our respect, and the courage to grow more fully toward our better selves."