ARCHDALE — The final days of a school year are always bittersweet for Archdale Elementary School Principal Lisa Thompson. Retiring after a 25-year career in education — 15 years as a classroom teacher, 3 years as an assistant principal, 10 as a principal — is an especially big step.

When she moved into the principal's office six years ago, Archdale Elementary was an amazing school and Thompson feels she is leaving it in great shape. “Those years certainly went by quickly,” she said. “I would likely have spent one more year, but a Stage 4 cancer diagnosis has a way of changing your perspective on things.”

During a routine classroom visit, Thompson spent a few last moments affirming a math assignment completed by fifth-graders in Jordi Burkholder’s classroom. The principal has spent a lot of time with this group, as they were kindergarteners when she arrived at Archdale Elementary.

When Yusra Yamin showed off her project, Thompson remembered the fifth-grade “moving up” ceremony in a few days. She had a long overdue list of things to do during retirement. Thompson gets emotional when she speaks about the fifth-grade “moving up” ceremony held this month at AVS Banquet Center in Asheboro.

Co-sponsored by Sen. Jeny Tillman, who represents Randolph County in the 25th District, the Tax Reduction Act of 2019 increases the standard deduction for married couples and alters the state’s franchise tax, which Tillman addressed as the act is in May news letter, saying the bill is just one in a series of measures taken by the General Assembly to provide breaks for North Carolina workers.

The act will also stimulate additional business investments in North Carolina by making changes to the state’s franchise tax, Tillman said. “Over the past eight years efforts by legislative Republicans to reduce the tax burden and reform the tax code have led to a strong business climate, where people are working in North Carolina today than ever before in the history of the state.”

According to Tillman, the legislation proposes to increase the standard deduction for married individuals from $20,000 to $28,750. This measure would go into effect in 2021 and would represent a $1,744 increase in state income taxes.

The franchise tax is one that employers pay on top of local property taxes and state income taxes.

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what was the greatest gift she received during her career? Thompson said, “I got to help. I could not be more grateful for that.”

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Staff writer Debbie

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Grace Davis Harrell°+, Zoie

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Network

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