



*Distinguished Educator - 2025*

**Ralph Summers**

**1944-1966**

They Lit the Way



DISTINGUISHED  
EDUCATOR

Ralph was born November 23, 1908, in Rochester, MN, the son of Peter and Mary Summers. He graduated from Northfield High School in 1930, and St. Olaf College in 1934. Ralph married Selma Oppedahl on June 26, 1934, at the Little Brown Church in Nashua, Iowa.

Ralph was a physical education instructor and coach in the public school systems in Blooming Prairie, Hastings, and since 1944 in Albert Lea, he was the athletic director and coach. He also taught physical education and driver's training. Ralph worked with the city recreation department and developed the first elementary physical education program in Albert Lea.

Ralph was a member of First Lutheran Church where he was active as an usher and president of the Lutheran Brotherhood. He was active in coaching and teaching associations, the Golden K Kiwanis, the Albert Lea Lions club, and the St. Olaf Alumni Association. Ralph was the captain of the St. Olaf football and baseball teams, and was a Golden Gloves champion in boxing.

from Albert Lea Tribune obituary, 7/15/1992