

## UPCOMING EVENTS

K - 12 Enrollment  
Wednesday, August 5  
10:00am - 6:00pm  
Thursday, August 6  
7:00am - 2:00pm  
GMS gymnasium

Staff Development Days  
Tuesday & Wednesday  
August 11 & 12

RVH Meet the Teacher Night  
Tuesday, August 11, 6:00pm

First Day of School  
Thursday, August 13

RVH Back to School Bash  
Friday, August 14, 6:00pm

Labor Day - No School  
Monday, September 2



Girard Unified School District No. 248  
415 N. Summit  
Girard, KS 66743

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## Friends of U.S.D. #248



Fall • 2015

## Early Release Wednesdays to Begin with 2015-16 School Year

The Girard School District will be introducing a one-hour early release schedule on Wednesdays, beginning with the 2015-2016 school year. Girard elementary, middle and high schools will dismiss students one hour earlier than regular dismissal time every Wednesday. During this hour, teachers at the middle and high schools will have one-on-one intervention time with At-Risk students, and all staff will have time to collaborate, and attend in-service and training sessions.

This is a new concept in the USD 248 school district, however it is common practice in many area schools. Research provides a strong rationale for regular staff collaboration time, which allows teachers to engage in student data analysis and instructional planning

in order to meet the educational, social, and emotional needs of students.

“Girard schools have always performed at a high level,” said Superintendent Blaise Bauer, “but we still have to be flexible and open to change, especially when the data shows that making time for one-on-one instruction for At-Risk students, as well as professional development, has a positive impact on education.”

Much consideration went into the decision to create this time for At-Risk intervention and staff development. A significant number of middle and high school staff members sponsor activities that require them to leave before school has been dismissed. In order to ensure these staff members are available for our At-Risk students, Wednesdays were

chosen because they are activity-free. The district has always made an effort to keep Wednesday evenings free from school activities out of respect for family and religious obligations.

Girard High School will continue to have activity practices at the usual time on Wednesdays, and will provide a supervised study room for students waiting for practice to begin. GMS and RVH will make every effort to avoid any after school activities on Wednesdays.

“We are optimistic about the impact this change will have on our schools,” said Bauer. “Providing At-Risk students with much-needed one-on-one time, as well as giving teachers time to grow as professionals, should result in improved student achievement and a better educational experience.”

### SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer  
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### USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

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## Construction & Remodeling Progressing

This summer has been a very busy one for construction crews working at USD 248 facilities. Remodeling projects at RVH Elementary and Girard High School started immediately after students were dismissed in May and are expected to be completed by the time school starts in August.

At GHS, the remodeling focus was on upstairs science classrooms, pictured above. Walls between seven existing classrooms were removed in order to create larger spaces where lecture and lab work can be accomplished in one cohesive space.

At RVH, the current Pre-school and 1st grade classrooms were remodeled during the summer months. After some transitional moves, these “west wing”

rooms will eventually become classrooms for Pre-School, Special Education and Title Services, as well as a teacher workroom. Outside the elementary school building, dirt work and footings for new construction are well underway, despite numerous rain delays and other obstacles.

At the USD 248 Bus Barn building, now being called the Girard Activities Center, the addition of three new athletic practice courts, as well as interior baseball/softball practice areas are completed. New restrooms and carpeting, wall tiles and temperature control, give the space an inviting and high-end appeal. Batting and pitching cages, along with fielding space, were completed in time for the GHS girls’

softball team to practice indoors while preparing for their trip to the state tournament in May.

Bids for the 3rd phase of construction are due by the end of August, and work is expected to begin around mid-September. This phase includes remodeling of high school Ag and Construction Trades classrooms, HS/MS office remodel, and a HS/MS Commons Area. New construction at RVH should be completed in April of 2016, including a new central office, lunchroom, library, music room, and 8 new classrooms. Upon completion of this phase, the old “cheese factory” wing will be demolished. This should begin in April of 2016. All work is projected to be finished by the fall of 2016.

### IN THIS ISSUE:

Improvements Projects Update  
School Budget Information  
Enrollment Information  
What’s “News” in Our Schools  
Early Release Wednesdays



# 2015-16 School Budget Information

The USD 248 Board of Education recently proposed a “net” school budget of \$13,110,350. The school budget is supported by state aid, local taxes and federal aid. Local taxes support the schools General Fund (20 mills set by the state), Supplemental General Fund (set by the Board of Education), Capital Outlay Fund (approved by resolution), Bond/Interest Fund (voted on by patrons), and the Recreation Commission Fund (flow through money that goes directly to the Recreation Commission).

For the 2nd consecutive year, patrons in the USD 248 school district

will pay less than the projected total tax rate after the May 2014 School Bond Election. Prior to the election, the mill levy assessed to district patrons was 47.89 mills. After the school bond election in May of 2014, this total was projected to increase by 11.8 mills, to 59.69 mills. However, last year’s total mill increase was only 1.51 mills due to the court-ordered increase in equalization state aid for the Supplemental General and Capital Outlay Fund. With the state aid increase, the district was able to lower the tax rate on the Supplemental General Fund and only assess an 11.1

mill increase on the Bond & Interest Fund.

This year, the tax rate will increase due to the state still not fully funding their share of the court-ordered equalization aid. The proposed total tax rate for the 2015-2016 school year (this includes all mentioned funds) will be 55.053 mills. Although this number is higher than last year, we will still be under the total bond campaign projection of 59.69 mills. So, for two consecutive years, Girard district patrons are paying less in school taxes than what was projected to them in the bond campaign.

	2013/14 Tax Rates	2014/15 Tax Rates	2015/16 Tax Rates
<b>General</b>	20 mills (state mandated)	20 mills (state mandated)	20 mills (state mandated)
<b>Supplemental General</b>	Actual: 24.89 mills Projected: 24.89 mills	Actual: 13.3 mills Projected: 24.89 mills	Actual: 18.25 mills Projected: 18.25 mills
<b>Capital Outlay</b>	Actual: 2.00 mills Projected: 2.00 mills	Actual: 4.0 mills Projected: 4.0 mills	Actual: 4.0 mills Projected: 4.0 mills
<b>Bond/Interest</b>	Actual: 0 mills Projected: 0 mills	Actual: 11.1 mills Projected: 11.8 mills	Actual: 11.8 mills Projected: 11.8 mills
<b>Recreation Commission</b>	Actual: 1.0 mill	Actual: 1.0 mill	Actual: 1.0 mill
<b>Total</b>	<b>Actual: 47.89 mills Projected: 47.89 mills</b>	<b>Actual: 49.4 mills Projected: 59.69 mills</b>	<b>Actual: 55.053 mills Projected: 55.053 mills</b>

## ENROLLMENT INFORMATION FOR USD 248 STUDENTS

USD 248 enrollment will be held Wednesday, August 5, from 10:00 am to 6:00 pm, and Thursday, August 6, from 7:00 am to 2:00 pm. All students grades K-12 will enroll in the GMS gymnasium. Each building will have an individual table set up for collecting forms and fees.

Mandatory book rental fees of \$30 per student will be collected at this time. Parents of students grades 5 - 12 will have the option of paying an additional \$50 technology fee which allows their child 24/7 access to the iPad checked out to them. Please note that this technology fee is an annual usage fee only, which helps offset the cost/depreciation of the iPads. It is not an insurance policy, does not purchase the iPad, and will not be applied toward any necessary repairs

to the device. Damage to the device will be charged to the parents.

Students grades 5 and up will be issued an iPad upon enrollment. These students will take the iPad home until classes begin on Thursday, August 13. If the iPad user policy has been signed by both the student and the parent, and book rental fees and the technology fee have been paid by the first day of school, the student will be allowed 24/7 access to the device. If not, the student will check in the iPad at the end of each school day.

Parents of students in grade 5 will be asked to create an Apple ID on the child’s behalf, after the iPad has been issued. Students grades 5 and up will also be asked to log in to iCloud and iTunes App Store using their Apple ID and password. Students must be able

to log in and log out using their Apple ID in order to use FindMyiPad, back up files, and download apps as needed.

For parents’ convenience, food services representatives will be available at enrollment with information and forms. Parents wishing to apply for free/reduced school meals for their child(ren) should come prepared with their income value in order to avoid late charges when school begins. Transportation department representatives will be available to answer busing questions. School district nurse, Christine Call, will also be on hand to address any questions or concerns regarding immunizations and medical issues. Please bring a copy of your child’s immunization records if there are any additions from last year.

## RVH News

### BACK TO SCHOOL BASH

The annual RVH Back to School bash will be held on Friday, August 14, starting at 6:00pm. USD 248 Board of Education members will be cooking hot dogs for everyone. Please plan to join us as we celebrate the beginning of the new school year!

### WELCOME, NEW STAFF

RVH welcomes new staff members, Amanda Kroenke and Micann Wren. Ms. Kroenke will join our 5th grade team, and Mrs. Wren will be part of the 3rd grade team.

Ms. Kroenke, a St. Paul, Kansas native, has seven years of experience, with a strong background in special education. For the past three years, she has taught at Meadowlark Elementary in Pittsburg. She has a Bachelor of Business Administration, a Bachelor of Science Education, and a Master of Science in Adaptive Special Education.

Mrs. Wren comes to us from Miami, Oklahoma schools. She has a wealth of experience including six years experience as a 3rd grade teacher. She received her Bachelor of Science in Education in 2008, and a Master in Reading Specialist in 2011.

“We feel very fortunate to be welcoming these two ladies to our Haderlein team,” said RVH Principal Mark LaTurner. “They will be valuable additions to our school.”

### PTO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

RVH PTO will be taking orders for school supplies again this year. For only \$25, your child’s school supplies will be purchased, packaged and waiting for them at the RVH Meet the Teacher Night on August 11. Individual classroom lists will be used to ensure your child has everything they need. Contact the RVH PTO at [rvhpto@gmail.com](mailto:rvhpto@gmail.com) to order your child’s school supplies today. Thanks for your support!

## GMS News

### GMS FALL ATHLETICS

All GMS students participating in athletics must have a physical form, consent form, and concussion form on file before they can participate in practice. Please have all three of these forms on file in the GMS file before the first day of practice.

GMS Volleyball begins on Monday, August 17. Practice each day will be from 3:15 to 5:00. Knee pads will be provided.

GMS Football will begin with their first official practice on Monday, August 17. Practice each day will be from 3:15 to 5:00. However, all eighth graders will meet with the coaches on Thursday, August 13 from 3:15 to 4:30 to check equipment and a short conditioning workout. All seventh graders will do the same thing on Friday, August 14 from 3:15 to 4:30.

### GMS EARLY DISMISSAL

As you know, school will be dismissed at 2:00pm on all Wednesdays during the 2015-16 school year. This will affect GMS students in several ways. First, there will not be any GMS athletic practices (football, volleyball, basketball, track) on Wednesdays during the 2015-16 school year. Secondly, the afternoon busses will run at 2:07 every Wednesday. Finally, GMS will implement a tutoring program for students who have a current grade of "D" or "F". We anticipate that this tutoring will take place on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month. More information will be posted on the GMS section of the USD 248 website.

“We feel really good about having twice weekly opportunities for intervention with our At-Risk students,” GMS Principal Randy Heatherly said. “We expect it to have a definite impact on their overall educational success.”

## GHS News

### WELCOME, MS. BLAIR

We welcome Kristi Blair to the GHS staff. Ms. Blair is a Girard native with 13 years teaching experience. She will be teaching science and physics classes at GHS.

“I am excited and proud to continue my teaching career in my hometown,” Ms. Blair said. “I look forward to being a Girard Trojan once again!”

### DUAL CREDIT CLASSES OFFERED

The following concurrent enrollment college classes will be offered to GHS juniors and seniors during the fall semester through Pittsburg State University and Fort Scott Community College, as noted: English 101 (FSCC), American Government (FSCC), General Literature (FSCC), College Algebra (FSCC), Performance Appreciation (PSU), and American History (PSU). All classes are offered for three college credits.

Students taking classes through FSCC and/or PSU must apply for admission (some seniors will have already done this if they took a dual credit class last year), pay a \$30 application if enrolling in a PSU class, enroll in the classes through the college’s website, and provide qualifying scores (Compass Test or ACT Test) to Mrs. Hey. The cost per class is \$291 (\$97 per credit) for both FSCC and PSU classes; this will be billed to the student through his/her online account with the college. Students may pay online with a credit/debit card, bring a check to Mrs. Hey prior to the third day of class, or set up a payment plan (FSCC only). When applying for admission to PSU, students need to select the “Non Degree Seeking Student” option.

If students or parents have questions about the concurrent college classes offered at GHS this fall, see Mrs. Hey during high school enrollment on August 5th and 6th.