

UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Awards Ceremony
Friday, May 17, at 8:05am
Jack E. Shireman Auditorium

GHS Graduation
Sunday, May 19
1:30pm, Baccalaureate, Shireman Aud.
3:00pm, Commencement, GHS Gym

GMS Awards Assemblies
8th Grade - Thursday, May 23 at 8:15
6th & 7th Grades - Friday, May 24 at 8:30

Last Day of Classes for Students
(this is a half day of school)
Friday, May 24

Summer School Begins
Monday, June 3

*Have a safe and enjoyable
summer break!*



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

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Classes Visit Girard History Museum

Girard High School teachers Mr. Mark McFarland and Mr. Jeremiah Hudson spent all of Tuesday, April 16, walking their classes from the high school to the Girard History Museum and back. The Museum, which recently held a Grand Reopening, invited the schools to bring students. Mr. McFarland and Mr. Hudson immediately took them up on their invitation.

Friends of Historic Girard members Terri Harley and Debbie Sims presented a brief overview of the history of our town. Afterward, students were given time to view the exhibits, which include a timeline of Girard history, as well as memorabilia and information on the history of Girard, past Girard businesses, and influential Girard citizens.

“They (the students) enjoyed learning about the local history, the foundation of what shapes the town and

area,” said Mr. McFarland. “Names from the past that they recognize or have heard mentioned in passing hold special interest for our students.”

The museum’s high school visitors were fascinated with the history of Girard. Several mentioned that they planned to return to the museum and bring their families.

Surrounded by mining communities, Girard’s history is unique in southeast Kansas. Prolific printing presses, which put out a staggering number of socialist publications, are what put Girard “on the map”. Beginning late in the 1800s and lasting into the middle of the 20th Century, many famous socialists spent time in our town, fighting for the fair treatment of immigrants, better working conditions for the American worker, and equal opportunities for the poor and underprivileged.

“The topic of socialism fit in well with both my Economics and World History classes,” said Mr. Hudson. “We are currently discussing economic systems and the Russian Revolution.”

Middle school Social Studies classes, as well as RVH 4th grade classes, also made visits to the museum this month.



GHS students look at photos and memorabilia from Girard businesses through the years at the Girard History Museum.

SUPERINTENDENT

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Spring • 2019

District to Add Three New Programs

In the spring of 2018, the USD 248 school board approved a new District Strategic Plan, created with input from district stakeholders. “Stakeholders” being defined as anyone impacted by Girard schools: students, parents, area businesses, and community members. Upon board approval of the new plan, the district began looking at ways to address issues that district stakeholders identified as “needs” for Girard schools.

Three areas that received strong input were addressing our GMS/GHS Vocal Music program with more staff, adding STEM (Science-Technology-Engineering-Math) in the elementary school curriculum, and adding a Wrestling program for GMS/GHS. All of the programs that were identified would be new programs and potentially

meant new staff for the district. Superintendent Blaise Bauer is pleased to report that all three needs have been addressed and the new programs will be implemented in the upcoming 2019-2020 school year.

“It’s very exciting to be able to add these new programs to the educational experience offered by Girard schools,” said Mr. Bauer. “We are always trying to better meet the needs of our students, and these goals have been on the list for a while now.”

Mrs. Meredith Reid has been hired as the new MS/HS Vocals teacher. She will teach four classes of middle school vocals and two classes at the high school level. Mrs. Reid, a 2006 graduate of GHS, is currently teaching in the Ft. Scott school district.

“The addition of a middle school choir teacher for the 2019-2020 school year has many advantages for our kids,” said GMS Principal B.J. Pruitt. “One key advantage is that it will allow us some flexibility in our schedule to better serve at-risk students.”

Currently, GMS teachers have around 30 students in an MTSS (Multi-Tiered System of Support) class. Teachers are asked to provide individual instruction to 6-8 struggling students, while managing the other 22-30 students. Mr. Pruitt conceded that this is not an effective way to provide instruction to struggling learners, but because of a lack of staff they are forced to provide MTSS instruction in this way.

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With the addition of a choir teacher to provide flexibility in the middle school schedule, it will lower the number of students in at-risk classrooms, freeing up MTSS teachers to work with a manageable number of students in order to provide much-needed individualized instruction.

The addition of a new choral program will also give many musically-inclined students an opportunity to excel in this area. Mr. Bauer said that USD 248 looks forward to a strong choral program that will make our district proud.

Mrs. Melodee Knopp will join the "Specials" rotation at R.V. Haderlein Elementary as the new STEM instructor. With this schedule, all students Kindergarten through 5th grade will enjoy a STEM-related lesson on a weekly basis. Mrs. Knopp, pictured on the cover, is currently teaching 5th grade at RVH, and has a strong science background from her fourteen years in the Science Center at Greenbush Educational Service Center.

"With some movement of personnel, we were able to adjust our teaching staff without adding additional positions," said RVH principal, Mr. Mark LaTurner. "Often it is necessary to look at what is being offered and without a doubt, adding STEM was the right move for us at this time."

Mr. Scott Reick has been hired to coach High School Wrestling starting in the fall. Mr. Reick is currently working in the Pittsburg school district, and will continue to do so. However, he will come to Girard after his school day to coach our wrestling programs. Mr. Reick has been a successful wrestling coach at all age levels for many years.

Over the past several years, Girard has had students wrestle cooperatively with some area schools. Most recently, GHS had eight wrestlers this past fall who wrestled at Southeast High School in Cherokee, Kansas.

"Due to the high interest level by many of our students and the benefits a wrestling program can afford our athletes as an extra-curricular activity,

the time is right for us to implement a program in our district," said Mr. Bauer. "This has been a topic of discussion and research for several years."

Mr. Bauer added that despite the recognition of "needs", district administrators must weigh the financial ramifications of adding new programs with the benefits they offer to students. He emphasized that the three new programs being added in Girard schools were made possible in part to changes in personnel which allowed for some duties to be reassigned. These reassignments then opened up the possibility of additional curriculum.



The 2018 GHS Trojan wrestling team participated cooperatively with Southeast High School in Cherokee, KS.

Girard Schools Partner with Girard Medical Center

There will be a new face in the "Nurse's Office" when school reconvenes for the 2019-2020 school year. With the resignation of the current district nurse, Christine Call, USD 248 Superintendent Blaise Bauer began looking at alternatives to the traditional "school nurse" arrangement that has been the norm in the Girard district. This alternative would have to be beneficial to the district.

"Many districts are contracting nursing services with outside entities as the means for their school nursing needs," Mr. Bauer began. "Rather than employing a nurse through the district, the district contracts with the outside source, who is ultimately responsible for the position."

Mr. Bauer went on to say that the idea appealed to him, as long as it was beneficial to the school district and beneficial to the entity contracting the services.

"Girard has a hospital that has worked collaboratively with the school

district in so many ways over the years," Mr. Bauer added. "So naturally, the Girard Medical Center was the partner the district reached out to for this service."

Mr. Bauer met with Girard Medical Center CEO Ruth Duling and the two came up with a mutually beneficial solution. GMC will service the Girard school district just as outside sources service other area school districts. GMC will technically employ the school nurse and provide a substitute nurse when necessary, however the school district will maintain a "say" regarding personnel.

"Girard Medical Center is proud to partner with USD 248 in the delivery of school nurse services," said Mrs. Duling. "Being the primary provider of healthcare services in Girard and the outlying communities of the school district is a commitment we take very seriously. The opportunity for GMC to employ the school nurse seems like a natural progression to extend our

services to more families. We were happy to work with the USD 248 Board and Administration in securing a great candidate for the position. We are excited to serve the students and families of the school district and help continue the tradition of outstanding nurse services in our local schools."



Nurse Christine Call attends to a student at RVH Elementary. Nurse Call currently services all three Girard schools.

RVH News

GRATITUDE FOR RVH PTO

The R.V. Haderlein Parent Teacher Organization (PTO) is an invaluable resource for the students of RVH. This great group of volunteers contributes donations to classrooms, as well as providing evening activities, enrichment experiences, and cultural opportunities. The PTO focuses not only on students, but also the faculty and staff.

Each year, RVH PTO provides a back-to-school luncheon for the teachers, and another lunch during Teacher Appreciation Week. For one week in the summer, they provide lunch for the maintenance staff as a way to say "thank you" for keeping our facilities in great shape and ready for the students when they arrive.

Their primary focus, however, is providing opportunities for students to enhance the educational experience. "We just want to help in any way we can," says Nelle Lehman, president of the PTO. "I have tried to continue the rich tradition of the volunteers that came before me. Girard is blessed to have such a great community and school system. Our PTO volunteers are super to work with and always willing to help."

PTO activities throughout the year include the Back-To-School Bash, Science Night, Art Night, and Red Ribbon Week (which advocates drug awareness). The other major event they sponsor is the Holiday Hoopla. This event is a large fundraiser for the PTO, but also provides a great deal of fun for the students.

Vendors and local businesses also contribute to the PTO. Vendors at PTO events make donations that eventually end up helping students. Community involvement ("Dine Out Girard" and the partnership with G&W Foods) is also very beneficial.

Tina Peak, RVH assistant principal, expressed her appreciation for the PTO. "Anytime we have a need or a creative idea, they are there to help. We just can't thank them enough for what they do for our students and staff."

If you would like to become a member of PTO, contact them at rvhpto@gmail.com. They also have a Facebook page, "Haderlein PTO".

GMS News

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Summer sports camps for middle school students will be offered throughout the summer. The following is a list of dates and times for middle school sports camps:

MS Football: June 24 - June 27
9:00am - 10:30am

MS Volleyball: July 8 - July 11
10:30am - 12:00noon

MS Boys Basketball:

May 20 2:30pm - 4:00pm

May 21 2:30pm - 4:00pm

May 22 2:00pm - 3:30pm

MS Girls Basketball: May 28 - 31
10:00am-12noon

In order to participate in extracurricular sports activities students must have a physical form and concussion/parent consent form on file. Students will not be allowed to practice or compete without having these items completed and on file with the middle school office.

STUDENTS AWARDS

Parents and family members are invited to attend the following GMS Awards Programs:

8th grade: Thursday, May 23
at 8:15am

6th & 7th grades: Friday, May 24
at 8:30am

ENROLLMENT INFO

Enrollment packets will be mailed prior to school enrollment. It is beneficial for parents to fill out the required paper work prior to coming in to enroll their students, then bring it completed to enrollment. This helps to expedite the enrollment process.

8th GRADERS VISIT PSU

Girard 8th grade students toured PSU on April 29th. They learned about the campus and programs that are available. GMS would like to thank Watco for providing lunch for the students and faculty.



GHS News

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT CLASSES

The following concurrent enrollment college classes will be offered to GHS juniors and seniors next school year, through Pittsburg State University and Fort Scott Community College, as noted: American Government (FSCC), Microeconomics (FSCC), General Literature (PSU), College Algebra (PSU), Elementary Statistics (PSU), Performance Appreciation (PSU), Speech Communication (PSU), English Composition (two semesters; PSU), and American History (PSU). Classes are offered for 3 college credits.

Students taking American Government and/or Microeconomics through FSCC (which would be seniors only) must apply for admission through FSCC's website, enroll in the classes through FSCC's website, and provide qualifying scores (Accuplacer Test or ACT Test) to Mrs. Hey. Students taking classes through PSU must apply for admission (some seniors will have already done this if they took a PSU class last year) and pay an application fee of \$30, and check with Mrs. Hey to make sure they qualify for the classes. The cost per class this year was \$297 (\$99 per credit), but is expected to go up slightly. 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 payment plans with the colleges. Online enrollment for these classes will begin in early May.

For more information, see Mrs. Hey during HS enrollment in August.

GHS SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school for credit recovery begins on Monday, June 3rd at 9:00am and will conclude Wednesday, June 19th. Class time runs from 9:00am to 1:00pm in the GHS library. Classes are \$50 per half-credit, \$25 of which will be refunded if the student successfully completes the class by the end of the summer school session. Contact the Girard High School office at 724-4326 or email Mrs. Hey (mhey@girard248.org) if you have questions.