

UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Bacculaureate:
1:30pm, Sunday, May 21

GHS Commencement:
3:00pm, Sunday, May 21

Last day of classes (half-day):
Thursday, May 25

Summer School begins:
8:00am, Wednesday, May 31
GHS computer lab

Drivers Education begins:
8:00am, Monday, June 5

*Have a safe
and relaxing
summer!*



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

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R.V. Haderlein Dedicates Tree to Namesake

Students and staff of R.V. Haderlein Elementary gathered on Wednesday, May 17, to dedicate a tree planted in honor of the school's namesake, Dr. Robert V. Haderlein. Dr. Haderlein was a longtime USD 248 school board member. He was active in the Kansas Association of School Boards for many years, and was elected KASB president in 1963. In 1981, Dr. Haderlein was elected President of the National School Board Association, the only Kansan to ever serve in this position.

After Dr. Haderlein passed away in September of 2016, RVH staff sought a way for their current student population to express their gratitude for all that Dr. Haderlein did to promote

education in our community, our state, and our nation. Counselor Amy Firman and Morale Committee Chair Carrie Smith decided to give the students an opportunity to bring one quarter (or up to four) to contribute to the purchase of a tree to be planted in the newly renovated school's front lawn. A total of \$221 was raised and administrators chose an "Autumn Blaze Maple", which was planted in December.

Referring to the new planting as a "thankful tree", the dedication ceremony reiterated Dr. Haderlein's commitment to Girard schools, and in particular, the great pride he took in having the elementary school named after him.

Fifth graders Max Lewis, Regan Poland, Sarah Best, and Matthew Boyd (pictured below with Principal Mark LaTurner) read a statement to all gathered. In part, it read, "As this tree grows it will be a reminder of his (Dr. Haderlein's) love for us and our school and will provide shade for students to enjoy for years to come."



SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer
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Girard, KS 66743
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www.girard248.org

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GIRARD
SCHOOLS



Fifteen District Staff Members Retiring

Fifteen USD 248 staff members have made the decision to retire from Girard schools this year. This group, considerably larger than the average number of staff retirees in a typical year, will be particularly missed because of the combined 354 years of experience that will be leaving our schools with them.

"This is really a unique bunch," Superintendent Blaise Bauer commented. "Words can't even express the tremendous effect that their experience, knowledge, and community involvement have had on Girard schools."

Pictured in the photos above, top to bottom, left to right, the retirees are:

Mrs. Vivian Blaes is retiring after 4 years working in food services.

Mr. Alan Boultinghouse is retiring after teaching Agricultural Education courses at GHS for 33 years.

Mrs. Mary Jane Dent taught high school English for many years, but most recently has served as GMS/GHS Library Media Specialist. She is retiring after 41 years in Girard schools.

Mr. Randy Heatherly leaves Girard schools after 15 years as the principal of Girard Middle School.

Mrs. Sherry Jagels is retiring after serving as RVH Elementary Special Education Pre-school teacher for the last 24 years.

Mrs. Brenda Marshall has served as the RVH Elementary Special Education teacher for students Kindergarten through 2nd grade for 20 years.

Mrs. Peggy Marshall is retiring after teaching 7th and 8th grade English at GMS for 30 years.

Mr. Alan Mein retired earlier this school year. He worked in the maintenance department for the district for 32 years.

Mrs. Kay Mein is retiring after 30 years at RVH Elementary. She has taught 4th grade most of those 30 years.

Mr. Leon Miller leaves Girard schools after teaching boys Physical Education at GHS and serving as the head football coach for the last 9 years.

Mrs. Becky Smith is retiring as the GHS Special Education teacher after 5 years in the position.

Mr. Steve Taylor is leaving
(continued inside)

IN THIS ISSUE:

Fifteen District Staff Members Retiring
Girard Schools, Through the Years
What's "News" in Our Schools
RVH Dedicates Tree to Namesake

(cont.d from page 1)

education after teaching high school math in Girard for 30 years.

Mr. Rich Wiens is retiring after 34 years as the RVH Elementary Physical Education teacher. He was the first PE teacher hired at RVH and the only person to ever hold the position.

Mrs. Robin Wutke is retiring after teaching 4th grade at RVH for 15 years.

Mr. Dave Wutke is retiring after 32 years as a GMS 7th and 8th grade Social Studies teacher.

The large number of retirees this year is due in part to an "Early Retirement" option that was offered to teachers who were eligible for retirement. Earlier this school year, the USD 248 Board of Education along with Mr. Bauer were pleased to be able to offer veteran district staff members a one-time "Early Retirement" option. Staff members who were eligible to retire were offered payment toward future health insurance premiums

through the school district if they chose to retire after this school year.

"We wanted - and needed - this to be a win-win situation for both the retirees and the school district," Mr. Bauer said. "Ideally, the district can save a little money on salaries while giving our veteran employees a nice benefit that will make their retirement a little easier. We truly hate to lose these veteran pillars of our 248 family, but we wish them a wonderful retirement."

Girard School District Facilities: Through the Years

With the recent completion of renovation and new construction projects in our district, it's a good time to look back at the many changes Girard schools have undergone since the school district was organized in 1869.

Just two months after Girard school district was created, the first school was erected. Five years later, a second schoolhouse was built. In 1887, a third school, which housed grades 6 through 12, went up on the spot that is currently the tennis courts and skatepark. It was known as the Central Building. In 1895, another grade school was built in the east part of town.

In 1915, after a successful bond proposal, work began on a new high school and two grade schools: Emerson at 109 W. Magnolia and Lowell. Less than a year later, the Central Building was destroyed by fire.

In 1954, the school district bought the Todd Cheese Factory at 520 W. Prairie, and converted it to the new Lowell Elementary.

In 1964, a new addition to the high school provided an auditorium/gymnasium and new classrooms for grades 6 through 8. However, on Oct. 25, 1964 the three-story high school building burned. An addition to replace the areas destroyed by the fire was completed in 1966.

In May of 1974, Emerson Elementary closed and students transferred to Lowell Elementary. An addition to Lowell was completed later that year so the school could accommodate all elementary students in the district. In 1979, another addition added a gymnasium and cafeteria. In December of that same year, the school is renamed R.V. Haderlein Elementary, in honor of Dr. Robert V. Haderlein, longtime school board member and national education advocate. The school was added onto again in 1987, after RVH began absorbing students from nearby communities, Walnut and Hepler, whose grade schools had closed due to low enrollment.

In the fall of 1993, voters approved a \$3.5 million bond issue to add a GMS Technology Center, USD 248 Tech Office and a GMS/GHS art room.

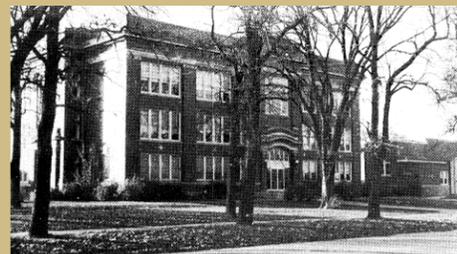
In 1995, four new kindergarten classrooms were added to R.V. Haderlein Elementary.

The Shireman Performing Arts Center, named in honor of former superintendent John E. (Jack) Shireman, and a GMS multipurpose/PE facility named for former GMS principal Mack M. Vinze, were dedicated in 1996.

In 2001, the district purchased the property north of the high school to be renovated and used for the district board office.

In December of 2009, the former Print Excel building was purchased by the district. By the summer of 2010, work was underway converting the large facility into the district bus barn.

In May of 2014, a \$16 million bond issue passed which allowed USD 248 to make the latest improvements to all four district buildings.



Girard High School, circa 1960



Emerson Elementary, circa 1965



Left, a GHS/GMS campus photo from a 1979 birthday calendar that the sophomore class sponsored as a fundraiser. Above top, Lowell Elementary, the "cheese factory" portion, circa 1960; and below, the same building, now R.V. Haderlein Elementary, Dedication Ceremony in 1979.

RVH News

SEEING DOUBLE AT RVH

When walking the halls of R.V. Haderlein Elementary School, it is not uncommon to experience double vision. Currently, eight sets of twins are enrolled at RVH from Pre-K to 5th grade. With an enrollment just under 500, RVH is not outside the norm with such a large population of twins.

In fact, according to *babycenter.com*, as of 2013, twins accounted for about 3 in 100 births in the United States. Between 1980 and 2009, the birth rate for twins rose by about 76 percent and has remained about the same since then. The likelihood of having *identical* twins, is holding steady at about 3 to 5 in 1000 births.



RVH RETIREES

This will mark the final year for five veteran RVH staff members who are retiring this year: Sherry Jagels, Brenda Marshall, Kay Mein, Rich Wiens, and Robin Wutke. These teachers have a combined 125 years at RVH, and their total number of years in the profession is 164.

"This may be the most total years of service to depart RVH in one year, ever," said Principal Mark LaTurner. "These are quality veterans that will not be easy to replace."

Rich Wiens, the only PE teacher RVH has ever employed, said he will miss coming to RVH every morning. "It is all I have ever done in my professional life," Wiens said. "Thirty-four years is a long time."

When asked how others would fill their time; gardening, travel, and of course, seeing more of their grandchildren were popular answers.

GMS News

8TH GRADE CELEBRATION

This year's eighth grade students' last day is May 19. The day will include: awards program to recognize outstanding achievement and improvement in academic classes and in extra-curricular programs, a movie, homeroom parties, free time and music in the gym. They will finish their day at approximately 1:15 by checking in their iPads. Additionally, our eighth graders are given the option to go to Silver Dollar City on May 18.

STUDENT AWARDS

Parents are welcome to attend Award Presentations in the auditorium:

8th grade: Fri., May 19, 8:15-9:30am
7th grade: Thurs., May 25, 8:15-9:15am
6th grade: Thurs., May 25, 10:00-11:00am

NEW FACES FOR 2017-18

We are excited to welcome Brannon Kidd, new GMS Principal (currently Asst. Prin./AD at Pittsburg HS); BJ Pruitt, 7th/8th Social Studies (currently Asst. Prin. at Fort Scott MS); Heather Peak, 6th English (currently teaching at Northeast Arma Jr. High)

SUMMER SPORTS CAMPS

Students playing Middle School sports next year are encouraged to attend the appropriate summer camps. Camp registration forms are available in the office.

Basketball Camp: May 22-24 (immediately after school each day)
Volleyball Camp: Dates not set yet
Football Camp: Dates not set yet

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Just want to take a moment to thank all the students, staff, parents, and community members of Girard for allowing me to be part of the Girard family for the past fifteen years. It was truly a great place to work and live. Although I am turning the page to a new chapter, Girard will always be dear to my heart!!!

Randy Heatherly, GMS Principal

GHS News

SUMMER SCHOOL

If your student plans on attending Summer School and they have not yet enrolled, please contact Mrs. Hey at the Girard High School office, 724-4326 or email at mhey@girard248.org. Summer school begins on Wednesday, May 31st at 8:00am in the GHS computer lab. Classes are \$50 per half credit. \$25 will be refunded if student successfully completes the class by the end of the summer school session.

DUAL CREDIT CLASSES OFFERED

In conjunction with Fort Scott Community College and Pittsburg State University, GHS will offer classes for college credit during the fall semester. Through FSCC, GHS will offer American Government and General Literature. Through PSU, GHS will offer College Algebra, Elementary Statistics, Performance Appreciation, English 101, and American History. All classes are offered for three college credits. The cost for classes this year was \$97 per credit (\$291 per class), but that is expected to increase slightly.

Students taking dual-credit classes must apply for admission, enroll, and present qualifying scores (Compass Test or ACT Test) to Mrs. Hey. Online enrollment will begin in May.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- May 19: Regional Track
- May 21: GHS Baccalaureate/ Graduation
- May 22: State Golf
- May 25/26: State Baseball/Softball
- May 26/27: State Track
- May 30-June 2: GHS Basketball Camp
- May 31: Summer School begins
- June 5: Drivers Education begins
- June 5: Summer Weights Start
- June 5-8: GHS Volleyball Camp
- July 10-14: GHS Football Camp