

UPCOMING EVENTS

GMS 8th Grade Celebration Day
Friday, May 15

GHS Senior Awards Ceremony
Friday, May 15 at 8:00am

GMS Class Awards Assemblies
8th Grade: 8:15am Monday, May 18
7th Grade: 8:15am Wednesday, May 20
6th Grade: 10:00am Wednesday, May 20

GHS Baccalaureate
Sunday, May 17 at 1:30pm
Shireman Auditorium

GHS Graduation
Sunday, May 17 at 3:00pm
GHS Gymnasium

Fifth Grade Moving On Ceremony
Tuesday, May 19 at 2:00pm
RVH Gymnasium

Summer Break Begins
Wednesday, May 20 (half-day of school)



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

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District Welcomes New Board of Education Members

The USD 248 Board of Education will welcome two new members in June of this year. Lori Johnson and Roger Breneman will join the seven-person board which represents district patrons in matters of school policy and finances. Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Breneman were elected to the USD 248 Board of Education by public ballot on April 7.

Mrs. Johnson is a 1995 PSU graduate who has lived in Girard all her adult life. She is the owner of the Farm Bureau Insurance Agency, and is active in our community and our schools. She recently served as the campaign chair for the USD 248 school bond campaign. She and her husband Wade are active members of the GHS Booster Club. The couple have three daughters, Shayla,

Kamryn, and Avery, who attend Girard schools.

Mr. Breneman is a life-long Girard resident, and former owner of Breneman Auto Parts. He retired from the store in 2013, but continues to be active in our community. Mr. Breneman is a mentor at RVH, along with his wife Cheryl, and he has served as Treasurer of the GHS Booster Club for over 20 years, a service for which he was recently recognized at a home basketball game. The Brenemans raised their two daughters Meghan and Erin in Girard, and now enjoy their four grandchildren, who also attend Girard schools.

Mrs. Johnson and Mr. Breneman replace outgoing Board of Education

members Gayle Price and Ed Becker, both of whom served our district in this capacity for 16 years.

“On behalf of all USD 248 staff and patrons, I want to extend our heartfelt thanks to Gayle Price and Ed Becker for the many years that they served on our school board,” Superintendent Blaise Bauer said. “Our board members put an enormous amount of time and energy into making sure Girard schools maintain a level of excellence. They take it very seriously and it is much appreciated.”

Current Board of Education member Dale Shireman ran unopposed on the April ballot, while incumbent David Goble defeated challenger Kevin Kerr.

SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer
415 N. Summit
Girard, KS 66743
(620) 724-4325

www.girard248.org

USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

Aaron Callaway, President
Ed Becker
David Goble
Beth Murphy
Gayle Price
Dale Shireman
Tony Stonerock



Summer • 2015

Summer Projects to Focus on Remodeling

Much-anticipated school improvements at all district facilities are in full swing. The addition of three new athletic practice courts within the existing USD 248 Bus Barn building is completed. Roof issues and exterior upgrades are being addressed at Girard Middle and High Schools, and construction at R.V. Haderlein Elementary is underway.

Crews began working on roofing issues over the RVH gymnasium in March, and USD 248 custodial staff cleared all playground equipment from the north side of the school and relocated it to the south lawn to accommodate new construction. Shortly thereafter, dirt work began.

Progress continues at the site, despite persistent rain and other obstacles.

There is a limited amount of interior work that can be done while school is still in session, so contractors plan to take full advantage of the summer break to get inside the buildings and begin remodeling certain classrooms. At RVH, the current Pre-school and 1st grade classrooms will be remodeled during the summer months. After some transitional moves, these “west wing” rooms will eventually become classrooms for Special Education and Title Services, as well as a teacher workroom.

At GHS, the remodeling focus will be on upstairs science classrooms. This

project will involve seven existing classrooms. GHS science classrooms are currently separate from their respective laboratories. Walls between these rooms will be removed in order to create larger spaces where lecture and lab work can be accomplished in one cohesive space. These science rooms will be receiving new equipment as well.

Remodeling projects should be completed by the time school reconvenes in August. In order to expedite this phase of the improvement plans, all USD 248 students will be dismissed for summer break at noon on Wednesday, May 20 instead of the originally scheduled dismissal date of May 22.

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USD 248 Board of Education Changes

Most of you have probably heard about the reductions in school funding in Kansas. Although school districts are the first to feel it, this issue affects all of us.

School finance is complicated for good reasons. Our system is set up to ensure the quality of a child's education is not determined by his or her parents' or school district's wealth. The law in Kansas provides that all students, regardless of financial status, should have equal opportunities for a public education. The Kansas Supreme Court recently ruled that the state has not met its obligation for school equality. Subsequently, some changes were made, but the legislature is still falling short.

How does this affect you? Obviously, it affects parents of school-aged children. But, it also affects those of you who do not have children in school. Why? First, you need to understand "equalization". Local funding of schools is based on property taxes, which affect us all. Some districts can raise a lot of money with one mill of property tax (a mill is \$1 of tax for \$1,000 of assessed property value), while others can raise very little. For example, the highest property wealth school district per student in Kansas is Burlington, which, due to Wolf Creek Power Plant, garners about \$480,000 per student for each mill. The poorest school district per student in Kansas is Galena, which garners about \$20,000 per student per mill. A considerable difference. Girard USD 248 is a little below average, but close to the middle of the pack. The state is required to offset wealth disparity by "equalizing" three locally-financed funds (Capital Outlay, Supplemental General, and Bond/Interest).

As a result of the recession and large income tax cuts, the state of Kansas stopped equalizing these funds to the extent that it had been. When that happened, poorer school districts had to make up for that loss by increasing local property taxes. Essentially, local property taxes replaced state income taxes. This placed a much higher burden on property owners in school districts like Girard compared to property owners in Burlington and areas such as Johnson County. The bottom line is that a student in Girard can not receive the same "equal" education as a student in Burlington unless one of two things happens:

1. The state equalizes education by taking money from all districts and dispersing it equally, or
2. Each school district assesses a property tax that generates revenue equal to that of a district such as Burlington. This can't happen in rural districts/communities. The results would be disastrous.

Therefore, option 1 is the only viable solution. There are many figures being "throw out" by various parties in Topeka. At the end of the day, each child in Kansas should have an opportunity for an "equal education". Additionally, tax payers in poorer Kansas districts should not be burdened with a tax rate that is considerably higher than that of tax payers in a district that has a large tax revenue.

I can't stress how important it is for all of us to have an understanding of the school funding issue. It truly does affect everyone and will have long-term effects on schools and communities. We have a revenue problem in our state that has had a strong impact on local school districts and local tax payers. This is a very important issue. I have done my best to explain this complicated issue and I apologize for any confusion. If you need additional information, please don't hesitate to contact me, or your local board members. Earning and keeping the trust of our patrons, is crucial to all of us. Let me know if I can be of any service and thank you for supporting Girard Schools!

District Retirees, New Hires

Four USD 248 staff members have announced their retirements this spring: GHS science teacher Debbie Brodbeck, district food services staff member, Charlene Brown, RVH 2nd grade teacher Glenna Crespino, and RVH para educator Terry Smith. The four women have a combined 97 years experience in the Girard school district.

Debbie Brodbeck has been with USD 248 for 25 years. She taught one year of Gifted Ed with the Interlocal Co-op before starting in Girard. Mrs. Brodbeck teaches science classes at the high school (Physical Science, Life Science, Principles of Technology, Advanced Biology, Anatomy & Physiology). She has also served as class sponsor, Science Club sponsor, Scholars' Bowl coach, softball coach, and a Kayette sponsor. When asked what she will miss most about her job, she replied, "My wonderful friends & colleagues, and the challenge of trying to make a difference in the lives of kids." During retirement, she looks forward to having more time to focus on her family and the family businesses - and developing a "bucket list", she added with a chuckle.

Charlene Brown has worked as a main dish cook in district food services for 23 years. Before working for the school district, she was a Cosmetologist. Charlene began working in the lunch room part time in 1991 and started full time in 1992. Her favorite aspect of working for the school district is being around the kids. She said she will miss that the most. Upon retirement, she looks forward to taking care of her grandsons Kayden and Gage, and focusing on her hobbies, cooking and sewing.

Mrs. Crespino has taught at RVH for 26 years. During that time, she has taught 1st and 2nd grades. When asked about her experience as an educator in USD 248, Mrs. Crespino said, "I will miss the students and being a part of their lives. Being with them is my happy place. I will truly miss all the wonderful people that I've worked with in this district and the parents that I've met. My children grew up and became strong, independent people due in large part to the people of this district and the community. My husband and I were very fortunate to call Girard and USD 248 our home. It was much more than a job and I will always be eternally grateful for the experience."

Although technically a Interlocal Co-op employee, Terry Smith has been part of the RVH family as a para educator for 23 years, working with students grades K-2. She also expressed that she will miss the job, "especially all the hugs and smiles I get from the little ones." She expects to stay very busy with her 13 grandchildren upon retirement.

"It is hard to see these ladies go," said Superintendent Blaise Bauer. "We always hate to lose experience and tradition, and that definitely happens when veteran staff members retire." Bauer went on to say that such longevity of staff careers contributes to the success of Girard schools and keeps expectations high. Retirees will be honored at a district dinner on May 19th.

Also leaving RVH are assistant principal/Title 1 instructor Tyler Jackman and 5th grade teacher Barbara Massa. Mr. Jackman accepted a position as K-12 Principal for the Uniontown school district, and Mrs. Massa resigned her position to work abroad for a year.

Filling the RVH teaching vacancies will be Amanda Leonard and Miann Wren who will join the 5th and 3rd grade teams respectively. Mrs. Tina Peak will assume Mr. Jackman's administrative duties and Mrs. Joni Benso will be the elementary school's new Title 1 reading instructor.

RVH News

ASP SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer school at RVH will run June 1-25. It will be offered Monday through Thursday from 8-11am. Enrollment forms went home with students on May 4th. The K-State Extension office will be offering a cooking class to students, Heartland Rural Electric Cooperative will be giving a demonstration to students about safety, Community Health of Southeast Kansas will be offering screenings to students (per parent request), and Girard Public Library will allow students to come and check out books once a week. If you would like more information, please contact Tina Peak or Joni Benso at 724-4327.

PENNIES FOR JAMIE

During the week of April 27, Haderlein Elementary collected "Pennies for Jamie" in honor of Jamie Ausemus Hallacy. Proceeds from the community service project will be used to purchase toys, videos, books, games, etc., for children who are patients at Girard Medical Center. In some cases, the items are then sent home with the child following discharge. Classes competed within RVH, with Kindergarten having the highest total. RVH students raised almost \$800 for the cause.

NEW PLAYGROUND OPEN

Due to construction, the pre-K/1st grade playground had to be moved. With the hard work of the maintenance staff, led by Mike Ledom, the playground is now open for business. Students were first allowed on the new playground the



afternoon of April 22nd. They are happy to be back in the "business of playing."

GMS News

8TH GRADE CELEBRATION DAY SCHEDULED

It is hard to believe our 8th graders are about to leave our middle school and enter high school. These last three years have flown by very quickly. They have been a very special group of young people who will be sorely missed in our middle school, but we know they will have a very positive impact during their next four years of high school.

Thursday, May 14 is the last full day of classes for 8th graders. At the end of the day, all 8th grade students will be given their free "class T-shirts" which will be worn to school on both Friday, May 15, and Monday, May 18.

Friday, May 15, will be "8th Grade Celebration Day". With the help of parents Roz Mosier and Tina Dixon, we have planned a fun day for our 8th graders to spend together, including games, a movie, homeroom parties, and lunch. At 1:15pm, 8th graders will check in their iPads, and at 1:30pm, all 8th graders will be dismissed early from school.

Monday, May 18, we will hold our annual 8th grade Awards Program at 8:15am in the Shireman Auditorium. This program will include recognition by classroom teachers of outstanding achievement and improvement, recognition of student-athletes, and recognition by homeroom teachers of all our 8th graders.

When the awards program is over, all 8th graders are invited to go on a field trip to Worlds of Fun.

GMS TRACK CONCLUDES

GMS Track & Field had a very successful season. The 8th grade girls won 5 of 7 meets, and took 1st place at the annual league meet. 8th grade boys took 2nd at the league meet. 7th grade girls and boys took 2nd and 3rd places respectively. Rachel Stephen tied a school record in the 100m with a time of 13.0 seconds.

GHS News

DUAL CREDIT CLASSES OFFERED

Girard High School will offer several college classes in the fall. To enroll, students must apply for admission to the pertinent college and qualify to take the classes based on ACT or Compass Test Scores. The following classes will be offered in the Fall through Fort Scott Community College:

- English 101 (seniors only)
- American Gov't. (seniors only)
- General Lit. (juniors & seniors)
- College Algebra (juniors & seniors)

Additionally, the following classes will be offered through Pittsburg State University:

- Performance Appreciation (juniors & seniors)
- American History 101 (juniors only)

All classes offered are 3 credits and the cost will be \$291 (\$97 per credit) for tuition. Some courses require additional fees for required software or books. If you have any questions, please contact guidance counselor, Marilyn Hey, at 724-4326 or mhey@girard248.org.

GHS STUDENTS EXCEL

GHS students Cailie Logue and Heidi Burns competed in a STAR (Students Taking Action with Recognition) event in February and qualified for the State Event in Wichita. At the state competition, these young ladies won 1st place and qualified for the National Leadership Conference in Washington, D.C. this July 5th-9th!

The GHS Trojan Tribune Staff placed in 22 of 30 contests at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association Regional Contest Feb. 26 at PSU, setting the GHS record for first-place finishes with seven, and qualifying all members to advance to the KSPA State Contest in Lawrence May 2.

Several GHS FFA members placed in various district competitions. Girard FFA will compete at state FFA career development events May 3rd, 4th, and 5th in ten different areas.