

UPCOMING EVENTS

District Enrollment
 Tuesday, Aug. 7, 11:00am - 6:00pm
 Wednesday, Aug. 8, 7:00am - 2:00pm
 GMS gymnasium

Meet the Teacher Night at RVH
 Tuesday, Aug. 14 from 6:00 to 7:00pm

First Day of Classes
 Wednesday, August 15

RVH Back to School Bash
 Friday, August 17 from 6:00 to 8:00pm

No School - Labor Day
 Monday, September 3

*Welcome Back,
 Students & Staff!*



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

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USD 248 Welcomes New Staff Members

Several new staff members are preparing for the upcoming academic year in Girard schools.

Lindsay Schossow will join the RVH kindergarten team this year. Mrs. Schossow comes to RVH after six years as a Special Education instructor in Joplin, MO. A graduate of Fort Scott Community College and Pittsburg State University, she holds a degree in Early Childhood. She and her husband Wade make their home in Pittsburg, KS.

New RVH second grade teacher, Joanna (Biancarelli) Rose, grew up in Girard and graduated from GHS. Mrs. Rose has degrees in Psychology and Elementary Education, both from PSU. She has spent the last several years teaching in St. Paul, KS. She and her husband Mark have three children who attend Girard schools.

Taylor Bernot is originally from Columbus, KS, and is a recent graduate of both the University of Kansas and Pittsburg State University. She holds degrees in Speech-Language-Hearing

and Elementary Education. Mrs. Bernot will be teaching third grade at RVH this year. She and her husband Travis make their home in rural Girard.

Joining the RVH fourth grade team is Maggie Niederklein. Mrs. Niederklein graduated from Colgan High School and is a recent graduate of PSU with a degree in Elementary Education. She and her husband Nathan live in Radley.

At Girard Middle School, former GMS Social Studies teacher B.J. Pruitt was named building principal. Mr. Pruitt is a 2004 graduate of PSU. He taught PE at Fort Scott Middle and High Schools before accepting the position of assistant principal at Fort Scott Middle School, a title he held for 5 years before joining the USD 248 staff last fall.

Willie Watt, who graduated from Colgan High School in 2008 and PSU in 2015, will fill the Social Studies vacancy left by Pruitt, and will also help coach middle school football. Mr. Watt

comes to us from Columbus High School where he taught Social Studies.

Girard High School welcomes Beth Wilson, who will be teaching Business classes. Mrs. Wilson is a 1983 Southeast High School graduate and received a Bachelor of Business Administration in Accounting from PSU in 1987. Founder and owner of Beth's Batoners in Girard for 25 years, Beth has been a Girard resident since 1987 when she married GHS alumnus Scott Wilson. In 2008, she began a new career as the business instructor and Future Business Leaders of America adviser at Liberal High School in Liberal, MO. The Wilsons have three children, two of whom are GHS graduates, and one son who will be a 5th grader at RVH this school year.

"We want to extend a big welcome to all of our new staff members," said Superintendent Blaise Bauer. "We are excited to have them here, and we hope they have a great year. We have high expectations for them and for the 2018-19 school year in general."



Artificial Turf To Be Installed at GHS Stadium

On Thursday, July 12, an official groundbreaking ceremony took place at Frank Jameson Football Field in Girard, in preparation for a major renovation project. At the June 2018 School Board meeting, the USD 248 Board of Education accepted bids for the removal of the current natural grass field and replacement with a synthetic turf field. The bid was awarded to Kansas Turf, out of Meriden, KS.

Much discussion and consideration went into the district's decision to install an artificial turf surface. Specifically, the following questions had to be asked and answered:

What impact would this project have on USD 248 and our community?

USD 248 has always maintained high expectations for being a leader in academics, educational technology, and well-maintained facilities. The school

district takes pride in being considered the school of choice for many stakeholders in the surrounding communities. Updated facilities provide an appealing first impression and are a strong attraction for families who are considering moving into a community. USD 248 will continue to work diligently to attract families to this area in order to increase economic development for Girard and the surrounding communities. It is our goal to give Girard students, families, and community members the best environment to foster success.

Why should we consider artificial turf for Girard USD 248?

The answer is simple – **STUDENT USE!** Artificial turf would allow ALL students and community members to utilize the football field at Girard High School in many different capacities. The field was previously only available

for scheduled middle and high school football games. With an artificial turf surface, the field could be utilized for the following activities as well:

- Community Walking
- Rec. League Football
- Flag Football
- Dance Team
- Band
- GHS Cheer Team
- Physical Ed. Classes
- Baseball/Softball
- Community Activities

Cancellations or postponements due to poor field conditions would be eliminated. Usage could go from less than 1000 hours of usage yearly to over 3000 hours. Practices could be held on the artificial turf field, thus eliminating transportation costs for busing students to the various practice fields. During inclement weather, students using the field could access *(Continued on page 2)*

SUPERINTENDENT

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

www.girard248.org

USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

Dale Shireman, President
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Artificial Turf (Cont.d from Page 1)

shelter at Girard High School, a major safety improvement.

What will the cost/maintenance comparison be for a grass field vs. a turf field?

Over the life of a synthetic turf field, we feel confident that artificial turf will pay for itself due to lower maintenance and utility costs.

How does synthetic turf compare to natural turf when it comes to player injury rates?

Because synthetic turf is "infilled" with resilient materials that provide a level of impact attenuation that is difficult to sustain on worn-down, overused natural grass fields, its usage can enhance player safety and reduce the amount of injuries. Traction, rotation and slip resistance, surface abrasion and stability all meet the rigorous requirements of the most respected sports leagues and federations.

How long can a synthetic turf field be used?

With proper maintenance, synthetic

turf fields usually last 10 to 12 years before the surface layer must be replaced.

Can synthetic turf hold up under heavy use?

Yes, synthetic turf can sustain very heavy use. While natural turf can't be played on during pouring rain or months of dormancy, synthetic turf allows for year-round playing time and has a durability that outlasts that of natural turf.

How will the project be funded?

The school district realized that the artificial turf could pay for itself over several years, after the initial install. However, that initial cost to get the project underway was something that Superintendent Blaise Bauer did not want to use general operating funds to pay for. After laying out the vision in the district strategic plan and sharing the community impact of such a project, area businesses and individuals were asked if they might have an

interest in making donations to help support the project. At the time of this writing, \$450,000 has been donated or pledged over the next 5 years. These donations, along with some capital project funds money, will more than cover the installation cost of \$567,000.

"I am humbled and amazed at the generosity our community has demonstrated for the project," said district superintendent Blaise Bauer. "I'm grateful that they can see the vision and are able to help make this project a reality. Without them, this project was dead in the water."

The donors for the project are: the Wutke Family, Girard Recreation Commission, Farmers Bank of Walnut/Hepler, GNBANK, Community National Bank, Exchange State Bank, First National Bank, Craw-Kan Telephone, Pepsi Bottling Company, AgChoice of Hepler, CDL Electric, Producers Coop, Freeman Orthopedics, Kansas Turf, the Girard Area Community Foundation, and the Dan Smith, Jr. family.

Enrollment Information for USD 248 Students

USD 248 enrollment will take place Tuesday, Aug. 7, from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Wednesday, Aug. 8, from 7:00am to 2:00pm. All students will enroll in the GMS gymnasium. Each building will have a table set up for collecting forms and fees. A mandatory enrollment fee of \$30 per student will be collected at this time. Credit cards will be accepted for an additional 3.49% fee. Enrollment packets were sent to students grades 6 and up. Parents can expedite the enrollment process by having forms completed, and by bringing immunization records.

Students grades 5 and up will be issued an iPad upon enrollment. Parents 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. If the iPad user

policy has been signed by both the student and the parent, and all enrollment and technology fees 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. Students who pay the 24/7 access fee will be issued an Apple Certified 12W USB Power Adapter and an Apple 1m Lightning to USB Charging Cable at enrollment. These items will be kept by the student for the duration of the iPad cycle or until the student leaves the district. The Apple Certified 12W USB Power Adapter and Apple 1m Lightning to USB Charging Cable must be replaced if lost or damaged. Students will be expected to purchase a replacement from USD 248 or Apple if either item becomes inoperable for any reason. Students grades Kindergarten through 4 will not have the 24/7 access option.

Food services director, Korey Kimrey, will be available 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. He will also be accepting payments toward student meal accounts.

Transportation department director, Rick Neil, will be on hand to answer busing questions.

School district nurse, Christine Call, will address immunization, food allergies, and medical issues. She asks that parents also see her if their student will be taking any prescription medication at school.

The Dental Clinic from Community Health Center of Southeast Kansas will have representatives present to address any questions or concerns about the services they provide at school.

Girard Medical Center staff will be on hand Tuesday, Aug. 7 from 11:00am to 6:00pm, offering free physicals. Staff from Community Health Center of SEK will be available from 8:00am to 2:00pm on Wednesday, Aug. 8, to provide free physicals as well as immunizations for students that are still in need of these. We hope that you will join us in telling them "Thank You!" for these free services.

RVH News

SCHOOL SECURITY CHANGES AT RVH

At the June Board of Education meeting, the Board approved the new student handbook, which includes changes intended to increase safety measures at RVH. Principal Mark LaTurner proposed limiting the amount of traffic in and out of the building during the morning rush. After the first week of school, adults that often accompany students to classrooms will be asked to allow the students to proceed to breakfast, bus room or classroom on their own.

"This is simply a school safety issue," said Mr. LaTurner. "We often have individuals in the building that we cannot identify and they are in close proximity to many of our students."

School staff will be at all doors to accompany the younger students to their destination, if necessary.

USD 248 Superintendent Blaise Bauer added, "School safety in today's culture is a priority and we need to do everything we can to ensure we have taken all necessary steps to protect our students. When parents put trust in us to watch their children, we take it seriously. This is not about keeping the public out. It is about keeping our children safe."

No changes were made for daytime visitors. Parents are always welcome, just as in the past. Patrons and parents can still buzz in after 8:10 and will be asked to sign in and get a visitor's badge.

"We are a community school and we welcome parents, grandparents and mentors, but we must maintain a measure of safety," said LaTurner. "We are trying to get the word out so parents will not be surprised. Overall, this is a good thing for the safety of our students and staff."

PTO SCHOOL SUPPLIES

RVH PTO is once again selling school supplies. Each grade level has submitted supply lists, so PTO will get the items needed for your child to have a great start to the year. Order yours at enrollment and they will be ready for your child at Meet the Teacher Night, Tuesday, Aug. 14!

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 office before the first day of practice.

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

GMS Football begins on Wednesday, Aug. 15. All 7th and 8th grade football players will meet and check out equipment on August 15th and 16th, and practice will end at 4:15 on those days. Regular practice time will be from 3:15 to 5:00.

Athletics schedules for the 2018 - 2019 school year can be found on the district website (girard248.org) under GMS Athletics.

COMMUNICATION IS KEY

During the transitional middle school years, good communication between the school and home is essential for students' success. Please help us keep that communication flowing smoothly by contacting us directly if you have any questions or concerns throughout the school year. We are happy to listen and help in any way we can to ensure that your child's middle school experience is a positive one. A great deal of what is typically referred to as "middle school drama" can be prevented through good communication before a problem has time or fuel to grow. A positive and proactive "teamwork" approach between the school and home will help pave the way for your child's/our students' success and improve our overall school atmosphere.

Feel free to call the school office at 724-4114, or email Principal B.J. Pruitt (bpruitt@girard248.org) or Counselor Karen Kelso (kkelso@girard248.org) with any questions or concerns.

GHS News

DUAL-CREDIT CLASSES

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: American Government (FSCC, seniors only), English 101 (PSU, seniors only), General Literature (PSU), Performance Appreciation (PSU), and American History (PSU, juniors only). All classes are offered for three college credits.

Students taking American Government through FSCC must apply for admission at www.fortscott.edu (some seniors will have already done this if they took an FSCC class last year), enroll in the class through FSCC's website, and provide qualifying scores (Compass Test, Accuplacer Test, or ACT Test) to Mrs. Hey. The cost for this class is \$297 (\$99 per credit), which will be billed to the student through his/her FSCC online account. 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 with FSCC.

Students taking classes through PSU must apply for admission at www.pittstate.edu as Incoming Freshmen (some seniors will have already done this if they took a PSU class last year) and pay an application fee of \$30. When applying for admission to PSU, students need to select the "Non-Degree Seeking or High School Guest" option. The cost per class is \$297 (\$99 per credit), which will be billed to the student through his/her PSU online account. Students may pay online with a debit/credit card, bring a check to Mrs. Hey prior to the third day of class, or set up a payment plan with PSU (extra \$25 fee). A representative from PSU will come to GHS in August to enroll students in their classes.

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