

UPCOMING EVENTS

GHS Awards Ceremony
Friday, May 18, at 8:05am
Jack E. Shireman Auditorium

GHS Graduation
Sunday, May 20
1:30pm, Baccalaureate, Shireman Aud.
3:00pm, Commencement, GHS Gym

GMS Awards/Celebration Days
8th Grade - Thursday, May 17
6th & 7th Grades - Friday, May 25

Last Day of Classes for Students
(this is a half day of school)
Friday, May 25

Summer School Begins
Tuesday, May 29
GHS Computer Lab

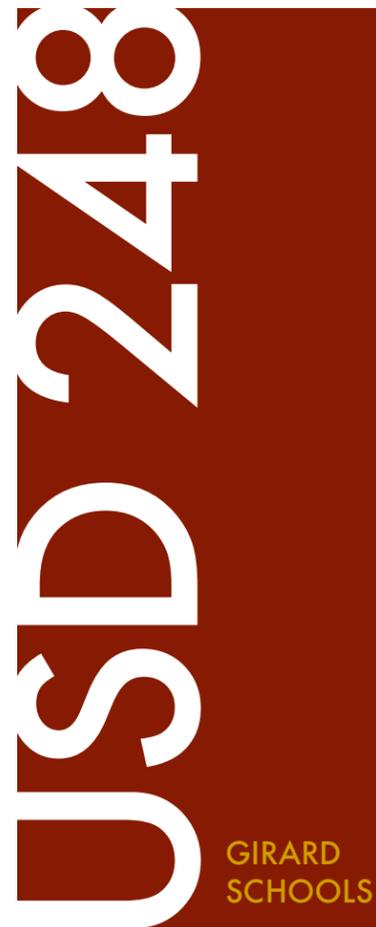
*Have a safe and enjoyable
summer break!*



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

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Spring • 2018

New District Strategic Plan Approved

In 2013, a District Strategic Plan was devised and implemented as a means of identifying school district strengths, needs, wants, and goals for USD 248. This plan included input from all district stakeholders: students, staff, parents, and community members, and was created to span five years. This previous Strategic Plan came to the end of its five-year term at the close of the 2016-2017 school year, at which time the school district began making plans for the creation of a new, updated Strategic Plan for USD 248.

Earlier this school year, Educational Consultant and retired professor of Leadership Studies at PSU, Dr. Chris Christman, facilitated meetings with district stakeholders to discuss the state of our schools, and the vision for our

future. An online survey was also available. In total, more than 200 patrons shared input regarding the future of Girard schools. Through this process, goals were identified, a mission statement was created for the new strategic plan, and committees were then formed to address the goals of the school district.

The Strategic Plan Mission Statement that was formulated states:

“Girard USD 248 Shall Maintain a “Kids First” attitude as a district priority by providing a personal educational experience for all students while focusing on continuous student growth and academic achievement.”

Using this Mission Statement as their guide, a Steering Committee

identified the following goals for the USD 248 Strategic Plan for 2018-2023:

1. Commit to high expectations for teaching and student achievement in academics throughout all grade levels and all school programs.
2. Commit to recruitment, retention, and professional development of a quality staff through the identification of current and future staff needs.
3. Enhance community involvement through communication with all stakeholders.
4. Develop a facilities plan to identify and address future facility needs.
5. Identify and address future

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technology needs and skills for staff and students.

Committees of 12 to 15 people were then formed to address the identified goals. These committees, comprised of staff, students, parents and community members, began meeting in the fall to compile and assess the information and goals, and create plans that will enable the school district to implement the actions necessary to complete those goals. Committees addressed the following areas: Communication, Staff Recruitment and Retention, Facilities, Curriculum and Instruction, and Technology.

At the May 10 Board of Education meeting, the end product of months worth of collaboration and planning was presented to and approved by the USD 248 Board of Education.

“Now our work begins,” said Superintendent Blaise Bauer. “We are very grateful for the commitment and work the committee members put into this plan. We truly value the input of all of our stakeholders. I’m always amazed at how willing people are to give of their time when it comes to helping our schools.”

Bauer went on to say that the goals and plans the committees developed are comprehensive and well thought out. Although the most recent bond issue enabled the school district to address many crucial facilities needs, there are still areas in which improvements can be made.

“We are extremely proud of our facilities, but you constantly have to assess the state of your facilities in order to keep them up to par. But beyond

facilities, we expect our school district to provide the very best educational experience possible. That includes hiring and keeping highly-qualified staff members, and making sure classroom curriculum and technology exposure is preparing our students for success in the real world.”

Bauer is proud to report that all of the goals and objectives identified in the 2013 District Strategic Plan were addressed. He expects the same results for the new Strategic Plan, which is also a five-year plan.

Details of the new Strategic Plan, including identified goals and objectives, as well as strategies for addressing and reaching those goals, can be found on the school district website, girard248.org, under the “District” link.

SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer
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www.girard248.org

USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

David Goble, President
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IN THIS ISSUE:
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Superintendent’s Message
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What’s “News” in Our Schools

If you have visited the school district website lately (girard248.org), you might have come across a link entitled *Mission Statement*. Our USD 248 Board of Education Mission Statement reads:

USD 248 is committed to excellence in education by providing the following:

- a warm, positive environment that encourages maximum academic, social, and personal growth for all students.
 - learning experiences that promote successful integration into today's society, meeting the challenges of the 21st century.
- A student graduating from USD 248:**
- will have a strong general education.
 - will demonstrate a desire to be a lifelong learner.
 - will demonstrate the development of individuality and creativity.
 - will demonstrate an awareness of the need for sound mental and physical health.
 - will demonstrate a sense of self-discipline, responsibility, and self-worth, and the ability to live and work cooperatively with other people.

We have determined these to be keys to success. Clearly, "success" has different meanings for different students. However, if we as an educational establishment provide the necessary tools such that each graduate of Girard schools feels confident in their ability to be contributing members of society to the best of their particular gifts and abilities, that is success. For some students, that means college prep. For others, vocational training. Both of these now begin in high school thanks to collaboration with local colleges and technical schools.

Generally speaking, all students need certain life skills to be employable and productive. With that in mind, beginning in the fall, Girard High School will offer a new class called "Life Skills" for juniors and seniors. The class will cover such concepts as basic home maintenance and repairs, basic auto maintenance and repairs, financial management, record keeping, job interview and attainment skills, and team building activities. Today's employers often report a lack of "soft skills" (promptness, appropriate dress, communication skills, etc.) in prospective employees. One of the purposes of this class is to address that problem.

If students leave Girard schools with an impressive GPA but cannot apply that knowledge or maintain a job, then to some degree, we have failed them. We want our graduates to be productive, contributing, responsible, employable citizens who are ready to impact the world in a positive way. Our hope is that they leave here prepared for life beyond high school, whatever that means for them. I am pleased to report that our schools are evolving in order to make this hope a reality.

One-to-One Learning Initiative Approved for RVH

At the May 2018 USD #248 Board of Education meeting, school board members approved superintendent Blaise Bauer's recommendation to provide R.V. Haderlein Elementary with one-to-one iPads for Kindergarten through 4th grades.

In 2013, the district committed to a three-year program utilizing one-to-one iPad minis for students grades 5 through 12 throughout the school year. A classroom set of 25 iPads was purchased at this time for grade levels Kindergarten through 4th to share among the four sections. At the end of the three-year program, the old iPad minis were sold and new, larger iPads were purchased.

The current initiative provides one-to-one iPads for all Girard students, including Kindergarten through 4th grades.

"We are excited to be able to provide this degree of technology for our younger students," Superintendent Blaise Bauer said. "We know that children begin using technology at a very young age anymore and it's important for us to introduce these devices and teach digital citizenship in the educational environment."

The recommendation by Mr. Bauer was based on input from the district's technology



Students in Mrs. Lofts' kindergarten class hone their addition skills on an iPad math game called Math Puppy.

steering committee, comprised of administrators, teachers, parents, community members, and board members. Committee members have met throughout the school year to collaborate and discuss the vision for technology in our schools.

Since the introduction of iPads in the schools, teachers have used the iPads to deliver innovative instruction while creating immersive learning experiences. Apps such as Classroom, interactive textbooks, and learning systems, have enabled these devices to become powerful learning tools. Many teachers at RVH will use the Seesaw app, a student-driven digital portfolio, to empower their students to document, create, and share their school experiences with their families. The Classroom app, used at all grade levels, gives the teacher the ability to guide students through lessons, track their progress, and keep students on track.

Technology coordinator Cindy Murphy said, "The blended classrooms in our district allow for differentiated instruction and accelerated learning that best meet the needs of all students. Students will use the iPad device for creativity, research, keyboarding, individualized and collaborative learning, and to improve basic skills."

Mr. Bauer added, "We are inspired by the impact these devices have had on teaching and learning, and we are committed to providing a learning environment that prepares students for the technology-dependent world we live in. Exposing and immersing our students in the most up-to-date technology is an expectation for today's schools."

RVH News

RVH TEACHERS SHINE ON PARENT EDUCATION NIGHT

Each year, R.V. Haderlein Elementary welcomes parents to Parent Education Night, a chance for staff to share teaching and learning techniques during breakout sessions. On April 17, RVH administration invited all parents for the purpose of introducing these and other topics related to education.

The evening began with dinner and a keynote speaker. This year's speaker was Tom Treacy from the Kansas State Treasurer's Office. Mr. Treacy provided information regarding the 529 Learning Quest Education Savings Account, K.I.D.S. Matching Grant Program, and the ABLE Act. From there, parents went to classrooms for the instructional portion of the evening.

Teachers espoused the advantage of bringing the community in for such communication. Fifth grade teacher Mrs. Morgan Crawford presented the basics of the math program used at RVH, MyMath. Mrs. Crawford said, "Anytime we can share what we are doing in the classroom with our parents, it is beneficial. We often use language or teaching strategies that parents didn't hear or utilize when they were in school. Math hasn't changed, but the terminology has."

Because technology has become such a large part of education, Mrs. Cindy Murphy, USD 248 Technology Integration Specialist, presented "Learning with Technology." Parents were introduced to 'common sense media'. The ratings of many websites, books, apps, etc., were discussed in order to help parents be better stewards of what their children are viewing or utilizing on- and offline.

In all, nine different topics were presented to parents. Mrs. Tina Peak, assistant principal and Title director, said, "It is a great evening for sharing with parents what we are doing and how we use data to teach and make adjustments in our curriculum. We are already in the beginning stages of planning for next year. The feedback we receive helps guide us to make each year's presentation more informative and helpful."

GMS News

STUDENT SUCCESSES

Here at GMS, we have had a great spring semester. Our students have excelled in the classroom, athletics, and in Band/Choir. We are very proud of all our students who put in the extra hours to compete and be involved.

8TH GRADE CELEBRATION DAY

The last day for 8th grade students is May 17 and will include the awards program, and a celebration. Additionally, our 8th graders are given the option to go to Silver Dollar City as a class on May 18.

STUDENTS AWARDS

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

- 8th grade: Thurs., May 17, from 9:00 to 10:00am
- 6th & 7th grades: Fri., May 25, from 8:30 to 9:30am

ATHLETIC HIGHLIGHTS

During track season this year, something took place that has not happened in over 20 years. 7th grade boys and girls, as well as 8th grade boys and girls all won the league track and field championship in the CCCJL.

We also have a first for the history of GMS athletics thanks to the 8th grade boys. The 8th grade boys were CCCJL Champions in Football, Basketball, and Track & Field. We are very proud of the accomplishments of our student athletes and wish to congratulate them. This is something they can remember for a lifetime.

MESSAGE FROM MR. KIDD

It is with heavy heart that I must announce that I have accepted a job back in Texas to be closer to family. This past year has been a true joy and I have had a great time getting to know all students, faculty, and community members. I appreciate everyone's open arms to me and my family and even though it has been a brief stay, Girard will have a special place in my heart! As always, it is Great to be a Trojan!

GHS News

CONCURRENT ENROLLMENT CLASSES

The following concurrent enrollment college classes will be offered to GHS juniors and seniors during the 2018 fall semester, 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 \$291 (\$97 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

If your student plans to attend Summer School, we began enrolling students on Monday, April 30th. Summer school is for credit recovery and begins on Tuesday, May 29th at 8:00am in the GHS computer lab. Classes are \$50 per half credit. \$25 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 at mhey@girard248.org if you have questions.