

## UPCOMING EVENTS

Enrollment  
August 6 11:00 AM  
- 6:00 PM

### Teacher Inservice

Monday, August 12  
Tuesday, August 13

### RVH Meet the Teacher Night

Monday, August 12

### 1st Day of School

Wednesday, August 14

### 1st Day of Fall Sports Practice

Monday, August 19



Girard Unified School District  
No. 248  
415 N. Summit

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## Friends of U.S.D. #248

## USD 248 Finalizes Five Year Strategic Plan

At the May 2024 Board of Education Meeting, the USD #248 Board of Education approved a five year strategic plan. The strategic plan guides the school district for the next five years in decision making.

The first phase of this plan consisted of a "Needs Assessment Survey" that was completed by patrons, business owners, faculty, staff, students, and parents to gather information on district needs. After gathering this data, the administration had a planning session with the Board of Education and developed five goals to drive the school district for the next five years.

Goal 1 is "commit to high expectations for teaching and student achievement in academics throughout all grade levels and throughout all school programs."

Goal 2 is "commit to recruitment, retention, and professional develop-

ment of a quality staff through the identification of current and future staff needs." To help meet this goal, we have recently hired a daycare provider and will have daycare on campus at the former alternative school for faculty and staff members.

Goal 3 is "implement a communication plan that will promote student activities and achievements; utilize media sources for teacher recruitment, teacher retention, and enrollment; and increase the type of communication with stakeholders."

Goal 4 is "develop a facility plan to identify and address future needs."

Goal 5 is "identify and address future technology needs and skills for staff and students."

Once these goals were developed, five focus groups consisting of community members, faculty members, parents, and students took part in information

gathering sessions to help address each specific goal.

These committees then presented to a steering committee. The steering committee was a separate entity of the five focus groups. During the presentation, the steering committee asked questions and gave feedback on the plan. Once the steering committee signed off on the plan, it was presented to the Board of Education.

"USD 248 is so appreciative of the community and its input." Superintendent Todd Ferguson said. "This plan helps guide us to make decisions financially, academically, and facilities based for the next five years. It acts as a roadmap to help us stay focused on what matters the most, our students and our staff."

To read the Five Year Strategic Plan in full, visit [www.girard248.org](http://www.girard248.org), and go to the "District" pull down menu.



RVH Playground Remodel

Summer • 2024

## RVH Playground Remodel

Because of a \$100,000 donation from the Goppert Foundation, RVH students will have a new synthetic turf playground when they come back to school in August.

According to Superintendent Ferguson, "This generous donation by the Goppert Foundation, at the request of Josh Smith and the team at Farmers Bank Girard, will allow us to create a safer and cleaner playground surface for our young students. Goppert has been very generous to us and others. They look for opportunities to give to education."

The installation of the synthetic turf will bring transformative benefits to our school and community. Some key advantages include:

1. **Physical and Cognitive Development** - Synthetic turf play areas promote physical activities that contribute to the development of motor

skills, coordination, and social interaction.

2. **Enhanced Safety** - Synthetic turf provides a soft and cushioned surface, reducing the risk of injuries during play.

3. **Weather Resilience** - Synthetic turf allows for year-round play, regardless of weather conditions, ensuring children can engage in outdoor activities more frequently without getting dirty.

4. **Increased Accessibility** - A well-maintained playground with synthetic turf creates a more accessible play area, allowing children with mobility challenges or disabilities to participate in various activities. It also allows for an outdoor space where teachers can take their classes for reading, math, and science projects.

Article continued on the next page.

### SUPERINTENDENT

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[www.girard248.org](http://www.girard248.org)

### USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

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# USD 248

GIRARD  
SCHOOLS

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## SUPERINTENDENT'S

# Message

Todd Ferguson

On May 24th, we wrapped up what proved to be another successful school year in USD #248!

One area we would like to highlight from this year was our state assessment scores. Our cumulative scores were very impressive and were an average of nine points above the state average.

We are extremely excited to announce the completion of the new RVH Playground. The K-2 playground received a much needed upgrade including state of the art equipment and a synthetic turf surface.

We are also excited to announce that we have begun the transformation of the alternative school building into a daycare and have hired a daycare provider. This will allow USD #248 faculty and staff the opportunity to have daycare close to their workplace and at a reduced cost. This addition fits under Goal 2 of the five year strategic plan, teacher recruitment and retention.

USD 248 students and staff do not stop during the summer! We have students competing all summer at various state and national competitions. HOSA will be competing nationally in Houston, FBLA will be competing in Orlando, and FCCLA will be traveling to Seattle. As you will see in this newsletter, our FFA chapter earned the Triple Crown earlier this year, which signifies the best program in the state!

As a district and school community, we should continue to be proud of the exceptional and well rounded education our students receive. Enjoy the summer months, and we will see you back in school in August.

### Go Trojans!

# RVH Playground Remodel

Continued from page 1

5. **Sustainable Solution** - Synthetic turf requires minimal water consumption and eliminates the need for harmful pesticides and fertilizers, making it an environmentally friendly choice.

6. **Long Term Savings** - Synthetic turf has a significantly longer lifespan compared to natural grass, reducing long-term maintenance costs and allowing us to allocate more resources to academic programs and extracurricular activities.

7. **Cleaning** - Our old rubber mulch spread out into the road when



it rained. Students and staff had to use buckets to regularly collect it and toss it back into the playground. Parents also complained that the black mulch stained new shoes and clothes. Turf also ensures that students will not track mud into the school.

In addition to the synthetic turf surface, the new playground has fifteen saddle swings, a handicap swing, and a double slide. It also contains a new jungle gym that includes two slides, a wall climb, zipline, rope walks, and a busy wall. The old metal jungle gym dome is currently being redone by the high school students and will be added back into the playground area when it is finished.



**“Our new playground is amazing. We are so grateful to have a safe, fun area for our K-2 students to play.”**

**Tina Daniel, RVH Principal**



**For the first time in Girard history, Girard FFA brought home the Triple Crown Award at the Kansas State FFA Convention in Manhattan. This award is given to the top chapter of the state of Kansas through the national Chapter Award Program.**

## SUMMER WEIGHTS

### High School Boys'

June 3rd - June 27th,  
July 8th - August 8th  
Monday - Thursday  
6:30 am - 8:00 am

### High School Girls'

June 3rd - June 27th,  
July 8th - August 8th  
Monday, Tuesday, Thursday  
8:00 am - 9:30 am

### Middle School Boys'

June 3rd - June 27th  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
9:00 am - 9:50 am

### Middle School Girls'

June 3rd - June 27th  
Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
10:00 am - 10:50 am

## SUMMER CAMPS

### Volleyball Team Camp

June 24th - June 27th  
*High School*  
8:00 am - 10:00 am  
*Middle School*  
10:30 am - 12:00 pm  
*Elementary*  
12:30 pm - 1:45 pm  
(Monday and Tuesday ONLY)

### Middle School Football Team Camp

June 24th - 27th  
9:00 am - 10:15 am

### High School Football Team Camp

July 15th - July 19th  
8:30 am - 10:30 am

## SUMMER MORATORIUM

No Weights/Camps  
July 1st - July 7th

## OPEN ENROLLMENT

Open enrollment for out of district students opened June 1st, 2024.

The application window closes on June 30th, 2024.

**Apply online at <https://www.girard248.org/vnews/display.v/SEC/Open%20Enrollment>**

*Students enrolled in the district during the 2023-2024 school year DO NOT have to submit an application.*

**NEED SOME HELP?  
Contact Superintendent**

**Todd Ferguson**  
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**(620) 724-4325**

# Rob Massa, GHS Science Instructor, Retires

Article Information provided by Trojan Tribune Staff Members Madison Cranston.

Rob Massa, GHS chemistry and physics teacher, retired at the end of the 2023-24 school year. Mr. Massa has been in the education field for 31 years and has served as a teacher, assistant football coach, head boys' basketball coach and head golf coach for both boys and girls.

After graduating from Girard High School in 1988, Massa attended PSU to pursue a major in physical science and a minor in chemistry and biology.

Massa taught at Buhler High School for two years and Uniontown High School for eleven years before joining the USD #248 staff in 2006.

When asked what he will miss the most about USD 248, Massa replied, "Being around the kids and watching them grow up to become successful adults. Being

around the students really keeps you feeling young."

Outside of work Massa loves to travel, eat great food, and see the country. He and his wife, Karen, also love to boat and fish, which is why they hope to purchase a boat in their retirement. He and Karen plan on traveling and eventually relocating to central Florida.

Regarding his experiences in USD 248, Massa stated, "I will forever cherish the memories that I've made here in Girard. It truly is a special place. Being a GHS product, I felt so blessed being able to come back and finish my teaching career where it all began. It's my hope that the district continues to carry on the strong traditions and values that it has been known for throughout the years."



**Rob Massa, GHS Science Instructor and Girls' and Boys' Golf Coach**