

*Wishing you
and yours a
very Merry
Christmas and a
Happy New
Year!*



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

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USD 248
GIRARD SCHOOLS



USD 248 Welcomes New Staff Members

The Girard school district has added a couple of new faces this school year. Mr. Korey Kimrey and Mr. Troy Combs accepted the positions of food services director and maintenance director respectively this fall.

Mr. Korey Kimrey was hired in September to replace former food services director Sherise Beckham who accepted a new position in her hometown of Ft. Scott. Mr. Kimrey comes to us from Cherokee, Kansas.



He most recently worked as a kitchen manager for Bear Trap Ranch in Colorado Springs, Colorado. Mr. Kimrey's meals are receiving rave reviews from USD 248 staff and students.

In October, Mr. Troy Combs accepted the newly created maintenance director position for the district. Mr. Combs, a long-time Girard resident, has a background in construction. He owned his own



construction company for several years and most recently worked maintenance for Post Rock Energy.

"We feel really good about these two gentlemen," said superintendent Blaise Bauer. "I know they're both highly qualified and are going to have a very positive impact on our district."

Mr. Bauer expressed gratitude to the USD 248 Board of Education for allowing the creation of a maintenance director position.

"In the long run, this (new position) could potentially save our district thousands of dollars in expenses that would have been paid to outside contractors," said Bauer. "I think it's a great move for our district."

Girard USD 248 Expresses Final Thank You

After many months of preparation, campaigning, planning, and construction, USD 248 facilities improvements are complete at all four district buildings. Students and staff are enjoying the improvements a great deal. For this reason, the school district wishes to thank our community and patrons once again for the enormous show of support for our schools that you displayed in the passing of the bond issue that allowed our district to move forward with the improvements.

Girard Middle and High School students have hosted several events in their new commons area, including a school dance and several fundraisers. It is a wonderful new "face" for the combined campus and both buildings are very proud of it. Renovated science and agricultural education classrooms

are proving to be a huge asset for those programs, and students and staff are now benefitting from the latest equipment and technology.

Security issues have been addressed with the enclosed campus, new main entrance and the camera systems being utilized in both Middle and High School offices.

RVH students are excited to have a new cafeteria, library, computer lab, and music room, as well as several new classrooms. Staff are very grateful for the improved layout and function of the building. Administrative offices are more accessible and functional, and entry is more secure.

The Girard Activity Center is busy almost every day of the week. An estimated 500 students, staff and community members are utilizing the

facility every week for various physical activities.

The new facilities are a wonderful asset to our community and the district wishes to express its gratitude to USD 248 school board members for their vision and hard work in seeing it through. Most of all, however, the district thanks you, our patrons, for your support in financing the projects that were presented to you by our school district. With some administrative and board guidance and concessions, projects came in just slightly under budget.

Superintendent Blaise Bauer said, "We can't thank our patrons enough for their tremendous support. The community is a reflection of the schools and the schools are a reflection of the community. This is a perfect example."

SUPERINTENDENT

Blaise Bauer
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USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

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Blaise Bauer

I recently had a patron inquire as to why we seem to have more inservice days now than maybe we have had in years past, and I realized most district patrons probably aren't aware of what our teaching staff is busy doing during these valuable days. I thought it might be beneficial for me to take a minute to explain.

Our teaching staff have, by contract, a certain number of days that students will be receiving instruction. Beyond the regular instruction of our students, teachers are also required to fulfill many other obligations. Not the least of which is state-mandated staff instruction/certification that districts are required to provide for their staff members. This simply can't happen when they have students in class. For example, teachers are required by the state to complete various yearly training programs such as suicide prevention and physical restraint training. Trainings such as these take considerable time, but must be completed or districts risk losing funding from the state. In addition, school districts must be evaluated and accredited by the state. This lengthy process requires teacher participation in numerous time-consuming activities. Because of this increase in paperwork, documentation, and other state requirements, teachers need additional time without students to complete such tasks.

In addition to the inservice time needed for teachers to fulfill required obligations, inservice days are a necessity for teacher professional development, collaboration, and curriculum alignment, as well as an opportunity to work with our at-risk students, among other things. This is truly the most important need for teacher inservice days. Teachers, like many of you in your jobs, need to continue to learn and grow to become better teachers. Inservice days offer valuable opportunities for teacher learning.

Teachers also need time to collaborate with different grade levels to ensure that we are meeting the curricular needs of our students. A Freshman English teacher needs to collaborate with the Sophomore English teacher to ensure that we are meeting academic benchmarks for our students. Are we overlapping and teaching the same thing? Did we fail to cover a required objective? This is what curriculum alignment is all about. And most importantly, we need teachers to collaborate to see what works/does not work in meeting the needs of our students, especially our at-risk learners. Our teachers use inservice days for many important and necessary activities. I only wish we could offer more inservice days for them to accomplish all these tasks. We are fortunate that our teachers do much of this work outside their contract workdays. We are truly blessed to have the dedicated staff members that we have in USD 248.

RVH to Thank, Honor Namesake

Students at R.V. Haderlein Elementary recently donated quarters to raise money to purchase a tree in memory of the school's namesake, Dr. Robert V. "Doc" Haderlein.

Dr. Haderlein passed away on September 14 of this year at the age of 93. A long-time Girard resident, dentist and education advocate, Dr. Haderlein served on the USD 248 School Board for 42 years, from 1957 to 1999. His impact on education reached far beyond our community, however. In 1961, Dr. Haderlein began working with the Kansas Association of School Boards (KASB) executive director Dr. M.A. McGhehey to transform school boards statewide. In 1963, he was elected KASB President.

School finance was a critical issue for school districts in southeast Kansas when Dr. Haderlein took the KASB reins. At the time, schools were primarily funded through local taxes. When the mining industry began to wane in southeast Kansas, schools in our area were in financial duress. Convinced a good education was the key to achieving the American dream, Dr. Haderlein set out to establish state funding for school districts.

While president of KASB, Dr. Haderlein became increasingly involved in its national counterpart, the National School Board Association (NSBA). In 1981, he was elected President of the NSBA, the only Kansan to ever serve in this position. As a nationally-recognized education advocate, Dr. Haderlein was appointed to the National Commission on Excellence in Education, which published the report "A Nation at Risk" in April of 1983. The report caught the attention of President Ronald Reagan who acknowledged the country's need to make education a higher priority.

Despite a long list of impressive credentials, one of Dr. Haderlein's most cherished accomplishments was the elementary school that bears his name, R.V. Haderlein Elementary in Girard.

After his death, 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. Students were excited to contribute and together they raised \$221. Administration chose an "Autumn Blaze Maple", and it was planted on Dec. 6 in the front lawn. A plaque honoring Dr. Haderlein will be placed near the tree.

Upon hearing of the project, Dr. Haderlein's daughters expressed their joy at the thought of a "thankful tree" being planted in their father's honor. As a nature lover and someone who believed strongly that gratitude was an important quality, the family thought this was a wonderful and fitting tribute to their father.



RVH News

RVH SCIENCE

RVH teachers have been busy all year implementing the Next Generation Science Standards, referred to as the Kansas College and Career Ready Standards for Science. Lisa Blair from Greenbush Educational Service Center has been coming monthly to coach teachers through this process.

"It has been great working with the elementary teachers at Haderlein Elementary on the Science Standards and seeing the practices taking place in the classroom with students," said Mrs. Blair. "There are some amazing science activities and experiments taking place. Students and teachers are having fun!"

The standards have a much more student-centered approach, significantly changing the way science happens in the classroom. Engineering is emphasized throughout the standards. Engineering concepts allow students to be creative and design solutions to problems and then test them. So far this year, students at RVH have designed bookstands, pipelines to deliver water to a field, and built towers with apples. Each student, K-5 has a science notebook to record observations from experiments that are happening within the classroom.

5th grade teacher Melodee Knopp, remarked, "It is great to see so many teachers excited about science because the kids already love it!"



Mrs. Mein's class created volcanoes that really "erupted".

GMS News

EARLY RELEASE WEDNESDAYS

The early dismissal time each Wednesday continues to be very useful and effective. On the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, students who have a "D" or "F" in any core class stay for tutoring and the opportunity to make up missing or incomplete work. We are averaging approximately 25 students in each of these tutoring sessions. We believe this hour each Wednesday is very beneficial in providing extra academic assistance for students while also creating collaboration and staff development time for our staff.

PARENT/TEACHER CONFERENCES

We want to thank all the parents who were able to come to our parent/teacher conferences in late October. We had 79% attendance at our conferences which attests to the high level of parent involvement we have at GMS and in our district as a whole.

CANVAS/POWERSCHOOL

We encourage all parents to go to our school website and log in to their child's Canvas and PowerSchool accounts. Canvas will show parents the daily lesson plans and assignments for each of the core teachers. PowerSchool is still the official grade book and will show parents the current grades in each class. If you need assistance accessing these accounts, please call the GMS office.

GMS ATHLETICS

Our fall sports seasons have ended. In the league standings, our 8th grade football team finished in 2nd place, 7th grade volleyball placed 3rd, and the 8th grade volleyball team finished in 4th place. Our basketball seasons are underway. We have 50 boys and 26 girls out for basketball. Their season began on November 10th and continues through January 26th.

GHS News

NATIONAL HONOR SOCIETY INDUCTEES

On November 8th, twenty-seven new members were inducted into the National Honor Society. This is a great honor and a testament to a student's character and work ethic. Congratulations to all these students and their families.

FINALS EXEMPTIONS

Finals are quickly approaching! To qualify for finals exemption, the student must meet the following criteria:

1. must have an A in the class for the semester.
 2. must have been a Renaissance cardholder at least one quarter of the semester.
 3. must have no office referrals during the semester.
 4. must not have been absent more than 4 days in the semester.
 5. must submit a parental permission form to the office by the designated deadline.
 6. must have met all financial obligations (library books, class, etc.)
- GHS finals are scheduled as follows: December 20th-1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th period finals, December 21st-2nd, 4th, 6th period finals.

DUAL CREDIT CLASSES

In conjunction with Fort Scott Community College and Pittsburg State University, GHS will offer three three-credit classes for college credit during the spring semester. Through Fort Scott Community College, GHS will offer Microeconomics (seniors in American Government AP are eligible) and English 102 (seniors in English IV AP are eligible). Through Pittsburg State University, GHS will offer Speech Communication (juniors and seniors are eligible). Tuition and fees for these classes are \$97 per credit (\$291 per class). In addition, students taking English 102 must qualify for admission to the class through either an ACT Score or a Compass Test Score. Representatives from FSCC and PSU will be at GHS for enrollment into the classes in early January. Dates will be announced to GHS students when known. For additional information, call Mrs. Hey, GHS Counselor, 724-4326.