

UPCOMING EVENTS

Last Day of Classes
Half-day on Wednesday, May 24

Summer School Begins
Tuesday, May 30

Drivers Education
Tuesday, May 30

RVH Summer School
June 5 - 29

District Enrollment
Wednesday, August 9, 10am to 6pm



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

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Friends of U.S.D. #248

USD 248 to Offer Online Enrollment

USD 248 Girard Public Schools is excited to announce online enrollment for the 2023-2024 school year! An email will be sent to parents of returning students in mid-July with instructions to use the PowerSchool Parent Portal for enrollment. New students can enroll online by going to www.girard248.org and clicking New Student Enrollment under News. A mandatory enrollment fee of \$15.00 per preschooler and \$30.00 per student is required whether enrolling online or at in-person enrollment. Credit cards are accepted for an additional 3.64% fee. If internet access is not available, enrollment can be completed using a district computer at the district enrollment on Wednesday, August 9, from 10:00am to 6:00pm.

Students grades 6 and up will be issued an iPad at enrollment or on the first day of school. 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. This fee can also be paid online with a credit card and an additional 3.64% fee. 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/Device 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.

Returning students who pay the 24/7 access fee will use their Apple Certified 20W USB Power Adapter and

Apple 1m Lightning to USB-C Charging Cable issued to them during the 2022-2023 school year.

New students and incoming 6th graders who pay the 24/7 access fee will be issued an Apple Certified 20W USB Power Adapter and an Apple 1m Lightning to USB-C Charging Cable at enrollment or on the first day of school. 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 20W USB Power Adapter and Apple 1m Lightning to USB-C 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 in grades Preschool through 5 will not have the 24/7 access option.



Changing of the Guard for USD 248

With the recent retirement of USD 248 Superintendent Blaise Bauer, the Girard School District will be welcoming a new superintendent as of July 1, 2023. Mr. Todd Ferguson, current principal at Girard High School, will be stepping into the role of district superintendent.

Mr. Ferguson has served as Girard High School principal since 2012. He began his career in education teaching high school biology for the Norton and Jefferson West school districts. Mr. Ferguson then accepted the position of assistant principal at Fort Scott High School. In 2009 he left Fort Scott to become the assistant principal at Girard High School under then high school principal Blaise Bauer. Mr. Ferguson served as assistant principal

for three years before becoming the high school principal.

“I am excited and thankful for this opportunity,” Mr. Ferguson began. “The Girard school district has been blessed with excellent and innovative leadership throughout the years. Combining this with a supportive community and an exceptional teaching staff, Girard has been highly successful in all facets of education. It is my goal to continue and improve upon this tradition. Girard is a special place to my family and myself, I intend to work hard daily to make sure it remains that way.”

“Girard schools are in good hands,” said Mr. Bauer confidently. “Mr. Ferguson is an exceptional leader with many years of experience, and

he’ll do a great job for our school district.”

Blaise Bauer began his career in education thirty-four years ago, and as he looks to his upcoming retirement he will tell you that time has flown by.

“I think back on all the friends I’ve made over the years and the wonderful mentors I’ve had—not to mention the thousands of young people that I’ve been privileged to work with,” Mr. Bauer reminisced. “It’s pretty emotional to see it come to an end.”

Bauer began his career in 1989 as a biology instructor at Girard High School. In 1994 he took a job as assistant principal and head football coach at Galena High School where he remained for six years. He then spent

(Continued on page 2)

SUPERINTENDENT

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

www.girard248.org

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IN THIS ISSUE:

Changing of the Guard for USD 248
Superintendent’s Message
What’s “News” in Our Schools
USD 248 to Offer Online Enrollment

Message

Since announcing my retirement in November I have been on a bit of an emotional roller coaster. Saying good-bye to a 34-year career is not an easy thing to do.

Girard schools and the Girard community have a rich and proud history. I can't help but think back on all of the staff and community members that I have been blessed to know during my tenure in the Girard school district. Many of them are no longer with us, their contributions to education forgotten by many. It is important to me that we never forget the accomplishments of these wonderful people who loved our community, loved our children, and went above and beyond to lay the foundation for the outstanding school system we have today. I am so grateful to all of them for their efforts and I want them to know that their legacy lives on in the hundreds—sometimes thousands—of lives that they touched during their careers.

I want to thank our current staff as well for their dedication to our students. In my eyes they are rock stars for the work they do for our school and community. In school emails I always address our staff as "comrades." This affectionate title is reserved only for them, my allies in the trenches. I wish them long, rewarding careers in education and the knowledge that what they do is important and valued. Our schools are only as good as our staff and I believe Girard schools to be second to none.

I have the utmost respect for all of the educators and community members that I had the honor to work with through the years. These folks are an extended family to me. I always knew they had the best interest of our school and community at heart. I often tell our staff that we are all family, and like family there are some days we will not always agree. But in the end we all want what's best for each other, our school, and our community, and we need to support each other like a family. That is my perception of this wonderful school district and the supportive community as a whole. I hope that moving forward this family attitude continues as we offer our students the resources, direction and culture for them to be successful while also being reflective of our community values and expectations.

Girard schools will always hold a very special place in my heart and I wish USD 248 all the best. I am eternally grateful that this community allowed me to serve their children in so many roles over the years. I am pleased that the district will be in the hands of a man I consider a good friend, Mr. Todd Ferguson. He is an outstanding leader and a man of great moral character.

I want to thank this community for your support of our school district. Because of your vision and support, Girard schools will continue to maintain high standards and an outstanding reputation for producing career- and college-ready individuals who will make the world a better place. Girard truly is a great place to call home.

Changing of the Guard for USD 248

Continued from page 1

one year as principal at Baxter Springs High School before returning to Girard in 2001 to serve as high school principal. In 2012 he accepted the position of USD 248 Superintendent.

During his first year as superintendent Bauer invited patrons to participate in the creation of a 5-Year District Strategic Plan. From this process, a bond issue was proposed to address the district's aging facilities, which passed with a record 80% in favor. Thus began renovations at all three Girard schools as well as the district's bus barn.

"Mr. Bauer's guidance has been vital through all of the additions and enhancements of our district during his tenure," said USD 248 Board of Education president Roger Breneman. "For this we all are grateful."

District facilities have received an impressive number of improvements during Bauer's eleven years as superintendent. RVH Elementary gained 10 new classrooms, a library, courtyard play area, and staff parking lot. Girard Middle School received a new front entrance and administrative office, as well as new student lockers. Girard High School received a new commons area and administrative office, as well as renovations to the science and agriculture classrooms. At the district bus barn unused storage space was converted into three basketball/volleyball courts, batting cages, turf fielding practice space, and a wrestling practice room. The district's football, baseball and softball

fields have all been upgraded to artificial turf making them more accessible for the community.

"I'm very proud of the improvements that have been made during my tenure," said Bauer. "These projects would not have been possible without the support of our community—in particular several businesses and individuals who were extremely generous—I'm very grateful to all who made them possible. Quality educational and recreational spaces contribute to school and community pride, and increase student and staff motivation and productivity."

Mr. Bauer also initiated 1:1 technology for Girard students, oversaw the establishment of a wrestling program, revamped the GMS/GHS music department, and ensured that Girard students continued to perform at high levels on state and national assessment tests. He guided the district through budget, legislative, curriculum, and personnel issues, as well one of the most unprecedented crises in history—the Covid-19 pandemic.

"Mr. Bauer's leadership, vision and tireless commitment to students, families, and staff across the district has been invaluable and far-reaching," said USD 248 Board of Education member Lori Johnson. "Our district has been so fortunate to have such an inspiring and passionate leader through the challenges that were set before us, and his dedicated leadership over the years has built a strong foundation for the future of USD 248 moving forward."

RVH News

RVH STUDENTS COMPLETE STATE ASSESSMENTS

All RVH students in third, fourth, and fifth grades completed their state assessments the first three weeks of April. Third graders were assessed on reading and math standards. Fourth graders were assessed on reading and math standards along with an assessment on social studies standards. The social studies assessment is a project that is graded by the teachers with a rubric. Fifth grade students were assessed on reading, math, and science standards.

Mrs. Casey Swartz, fourth grade teacher, commented, "Our students work hard all year learning and practicing. The state assessments give the students an opportunity to show off what they know!"

Students prepare for these assessments by continually practicing grade level standards, taking predictive assessments three times per year, and learning how to use the technology for the assessments. Students celebrated the end of state testing with a Glow Party, kickball tournament, and ice cream. Results were available to parents in early May.

RVH SUMMER SCHOOL

RVH summer school will be offered to all current Kindergarten through 5th grade students on a first come, first serve basis. Enrollment for summer school started on May 1, and student sessions will be offered from June 5th through June 29th on Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays from 8:00am to 11:00am. Students attending will participate in daily academic time, snack time, and an enrichment time. Other fun activities include weekly trips to the public library and a field trip or two.

GMS News

GMS SUMMER SCHOOL

Summer School for GMS students will begin on June 1. It will be on Tuesdays and Thursdays in June from 9:00am to 12:00 noon. Parents who are interested in summer school for their student(s) should contact the middle school office at (620) 724-4114.

SPORTS TEAM CAMPS

GMS students will have the opportunity to attend athletic camps this summer. GMS Basketball Camp will be May 30 and 31. GMS Volleyball Camp will be June 26 - 29. GMS Football Camp will be July 10 - 13. Middle School Summer Conditioning begins June 12 and will be held on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Thursdays. Middle School boys conditioning will be from 9:00am to 10:00am and girls from 10:00am to 11:00am.

GMS NEW TEACHERS

GMS staff will have a few new faces come fall and we would like to welcome our new teachers to GMS for the 2023-2024 school year. Jon Bishop will be teaching 7th grade English, Tracy Belcher will be teaching 6th grade math, and Renee Scales will be our new special education instructor. Please welcome them when you see them!

Have a great

 Summer
 Vacation!

GHS News

FBLA COMPETITION

Twenty-two GHS FBLA members, accompanied by advisor Beth Wilson, recently competed at the 2023 Kansas State FBLA competition in Topeka. Attending were Sarah Best, Josie Gronau, Spencer Jagels, Kendra Johnson, Mia Jubber, Gage Kmiec, Kaylen McAtee, Darrel McLeod, Brooklyn Mlekus, Owen Murphy, Kara Pope, Kenneth Pope, Zoë Rhodes, Carly Reif, Jaxson Robinson, Sarah Rose, Jonah Sandford, Hayley Schoeling, Claire Stevens, Petr Šotola, Tanner Ulbrich, and Seth Wilson. GHS participants earned 52 Top Ten placements, and 15 members qualified for the 2023 National Leadership Conference in Atlanta in June.

HOSA LEADERSHIP CONFERENCE

Twenty GHS Health Occupations Students of America (HOSA) members and advisor Kristi Blair attended the Spring Leadership Conference at PSU for the first time. Those in attendance included Erika Boatman, Layla Pride, Izzabella Rice, Allie Vinardi, Samantha Turpen, Hanna Bailey, Ainsley Norton, Kara Pope, Claire Stevens, Caitlin Cranston, Gavin Doubrava, Syerra Gilmore, Sara Goble, Spencer Jagels, Zoë Rhodes, Jaxson Robinson, Ashley Sabine, Jonah Sandford, Tanner Ulbrich and Hannah Warner. Fourteen GHS students qualified for the 2023 International Leadership Conference which will be held in Dallas in June.

FCCLA COMPETITION

GHS FCCLA members, under sponsor Emily Herlocker, competed in district Students Taking Action with Recognition (STAR) Events at PSU. Attending were Peyton Brooks, Rylee Brooks, Bethany Herlocker, Sydney Hessong, Bailey Troike, and Bethany Herlocker, who received a ranking of Top Gold and will represent GHS at the FCCLA Nationals in Denver in July.