

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### District Enrollment

Tuesday, Aug. 8, 11:00am - 6:00pm  
Wednesday, Aug. 9, 7:00am - 2:30pm  
GMS gymnasium

### Free Physicals & Immunizations

Wednesday, Aug. 9, 8:30am - 2:30pm  
GMS gymnasium  
(courtesy of Community Health Center of SEK)

### First Day of Classes

Wednesday, August 16

### RVH Back to School Bash

Friday, August 25 from 6 - 8pm

### No School - Labor Day

Monday, September 4

*Welcome Back,  
Students & Staff!*



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

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

## Enrollment Information for USD 248 Students

USD 248 enrollment will take place Tuesday, Aug. 8, from 11:00am to 6:00pm and Wednesday, Aug. 9, from 7:00am to 2:30pm. All students will enroll in the GMS gymnasium. Each building will have a table set up for collecting forms and fees. Mandatory text book rental fees of \$30 per student will be collected at this time. Credit cards will be accepted for an additional 2.4% 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 book rental fees and the technology fee 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 had 24/7 access last year will continue to use the Apple Certified charging cord/power adapter issued to them last August. Those students new to 24/7 access this year will be issued an Apple Certified charging cord/power adapter for the device at enrollment. This cord must be replaced if it is lost or damaged. Students will be expected to replace their cord with an Apple Certified charging cord/power adapter from USD 248 or Apple if it becomes inoperable for any reason.

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.

Nursing staff from CHC of SEK will be available from 8:30-2:30 on August 9th to perform free physicals and immunizations for students that are still in need of these. Please tell them "Thank You!" for this free service.

### SUPERINTENDENT

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

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

### USD 248 SCHOOL BOARD

David Goble, President  
Roger Breneman  
Dale Coomes  
Lori Johnson  
Beth Murphy  
Dale Shireman  
Tony Stonerock



## Summer Facilities Improvements Underway

USD 248 maintenance staff and administration are utilizing the summer recess to initiate improvements to several district facilities. In addition to the usual cleaning and painting that takes place over the break, several other projects are giving facilities a fresh, updated look. Most notably, bleachers in both the high school and middle school gymnasiums, as well as the bleachers on the north side of the football field, are currently being removed in preparation for new bleachers.

In the middle school gym, new bleachers will be installed in both the mezzanine and lower level areas. In the high school gym, the lower wooden bleachers will be replaced on both sides. At the football field, the

bleachers on the north (home) side will be replaced and raised to improve viewing for Girard patrons. All of the new bleachers, in both gyms and at the football field, will be ADA compliant, improving accessibility for people with disabilities.

Construction of the new seating will occur in three phases. The football field bleacher removal has already begun and installation of the new bleachers will be completed by September 5th. Bleachers in both gyms are currently being dismantled and removed. The new GMS bleachers will be installed between August 14th and 25th. The GHS bleachers are scheduled to be installed between volleyball and basketball seasons (Oct. 23rd to Nov. 12th).

USD 248 is also updating the GHS gym floor (pictured above). The playing surface has been sanded down, weak spots in the floor were repaired, and new graphics and lines have been painted. This project will be completed by August 1st.

Finally, the Girard Activity Center will receive new LED lighting over the basketball courts, baseball and softball cages, and the netted throwing area. USD 248 received a \$10,000 donation from the GHS Booster Club to assist with improving the lighting at the Activity Center. The new lights will produce more light and less heat, and will reduce the cost of electricity required to light the facility. The district wishes to thank the Booster Club for their generous donation.

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# USD 248 Welcomes New Staff Members

Numerous new staff members are preparing for the upcoming academic year in all three Girard school buildings. RVH Elementary welcomes six new staff members, while Girard Middle School gains three, and Girard High School, four. The large number is due, in part, to the retirement of fifteen staff members last school year.

At RVH, Ashleigh Brauer will be joining the 3rd grade team. Mrs. Brauer graduated from Pittsburg State University in 2015. For the past two years, she has been teaching elementary school in the Parsons district.

Morgan Crawford will be teaching 5th grade at RVH. She will also serve as the head volleyball coach at GHS. Mrs. Crawford is a 2013 graduate of the University of Oklahoma, where she attended on a volleyball scholarship. She has been teaching first grade at Lamar Primary School for the past two years.

Tessa Johnson will be teaching 3rd grade at RVH. Mrs. Johnson completed her student teaching assignment at RVH during the 2016-17 academic year. She is a graduate of Southeast High School and Pittsburg State University. Mrs. Johnson will also assist in coaching volleyball at GHS.

Sabrina Murphy, a former para professional at RVH, will be joining the 2nd grade team this fall. Mrs. Murphy has two years experience in pre-K and two years experience teaching kindergarten at Winfield Scott Elementary School in Fort Scott.

Ben Niggemann, a 1997 Girard graduate, will be teaching Physical Education at RVH. Most recently, Mr. Niggemann has been teaching Elementary PE in the Valley Center

school district. A 2002 graduate of PSU, Mr. Niggemann will also help coach middle school football and track.

Autumn VanLeeuwen, a 2008 Girard graduate, will be teaching Early Childhood Special Education at RVH. Ms. VanLeeuwen is a graduate of Kansas State University and Wichita State University. For the past three years, she has been teaching ECSE in the Derby district.

At Girard Middle School, Brannon Kidd has taken the reins as building principal. Mr. Kidd graduated from Southern Methodist University in Texas in 1996. He taught and coached football in Texas until accepting the position of Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Pittsburg High School in 2014.

BJ Pruitt will be teaching Social Studies at GMS. 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 has held for the past five years.

Heather Peak, a 2006 PSU graduate, will be teaching English at GMS, and will also coach middle school volleyball. Mrs. Peak taught 5th grade at St. Patrick's Catholic School in Parsons for one year before accepting a 6th grade position in Arma, where she has taught for the past nine years.

At Girard High School, Brandon Callaway will be teaching Agricultural Education. Mr. Callaway is a 2014 Kansas State University graduate with a Bachelors Degree in Agriculture Education. Mr. Callaway, a 2009 Girard graduate, comes to us from Beloit, KS, where he taught Agriculture Education and served as FFA sponsor.

Chris Dunlap returns to GHS to teach 11-12 grade Special Education. A 2004 GHS graduate, Mr. Dunlap graduated from PSU with a Bachelors degree in Physical Education in 2009. After graduation, he spent two years in Missouri, teaching and coaching. In 2011, he took a job with the Interlocal 637 and then completed his Masters in Special Education in 2014 at PSU.

Neal Philpot will be teaching boys' Physical Education classes at GHS and will serve as the head football coach. Mr. Philpot graduated from PSU in 2005 with a Bachelors of Science in Education. He was a standout quarterback for the Gorillas: accruing a 38-8 record in his four years, becoming a 2004 finalist for the Harlon Hill Award, and being the first quarterback in NCAA Division II history to eclipse 3,500 rushing and 5,000 passing yards. Mr. Philpot taught one year of science at PHS, coached wide receivers at PSU for 10 years, and most recently taught and coached football at Ottawa University.

Rachael Sachs will be teaching Algebra IA, Algebra IB, and Algebra II at GHS. She recently graduated with her Masters in Mathematics from PSU where she also taught College Algebra as a graduate assistant. Mrs. Sachs completed her student teaching at GHS back in 2014, and most recently was teaching at Joplin High School.

"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, we have high expectations for them, and we are looking forward to another great school year."

## Girard Schools to Celebrate City's Sesquicentennial

Girard schools are proud to partner with the City of Girard in celebrating the city's upcoming Sesquicentennial. A sesquicentennial is a celebration of a 150-year anniversary. The city's official 150th "birthday" is February 28, 2018, but a Sesquicentennial committee has plans for a year-long celebration, kicking off in January of 2018.

Founded in the spring of 1868 by Dr. Charles Strong, Girard has a vibrant and fascinating history. USD

248 is committed to celebrating this milestone in Girard's history by ensuring that students understand our community's rich history and play an important role in the year-long celebration.

"We are very pleased to be a part of the 150th celebration," said Superintendent Blaise Bauer. "I always stress the importance of the community-school relationship, so sharing Girard's history with our

students and making them part of the celebration is a big deal for us."

Bauer went on to say that Girard history will be introduced in classroom curriculum, but teachers will be also be encouraged to use their creativity to find ways to make our community's history come to life for our students.

Look for more information regarding Sesquicentennial events and activities in upcoming issues of the Hometown Girard newspaper.

## RVH News

### RVH SUMMER SCHOOL

A 21<sup>st</sup> Century grant allowed 87 RVH summer school students to enjoy new and amazing learning opportunities. The grant enabled students to "see and do," explained Tina Peak, assistant principal and director of this year's summer school. "The focus was to open opportunities and provide hands-on learning experiences. We had several guest speakers who did a super job teaching our students. The grant also allowed our students to go off campus and see places they may not otherwise have the opportunity to see," said Mrs. Peak.

Students were offered a cooking class by Ms. Stacy Garbrick of the K-State extension office. The class taught students how to prepare certain meals. Nutrition and long-term health information were also included in the lesson.

Mr. Aaron Williams showed his expertise in beekeeping. Students were introduced to the basics of beekeeping, but were also informed about the science of pollination, number of miles a bee travels in its lifetime, importance of the balance of nature, and how the queen is instrumental in the survival of all. Students were then shown how to turn honey into lip balm.

Greenbush provided several hands-on experiments, including programming a car to travel on a path that the students entered into an iPad app. Engineering and carpentry skills were taught and measured through the creation of a plan and construction with blocks. Student-built boats were put to the test during a water displacement experiment. Success was determined by the number of pennies the aluminum foil boats could hold.

Off campus field trips were also provided. Students and staff were treated to the Dickerson Zoo in Springfield, Deana Rose Farm in Overland Park, and the Amazeum Museum in Bentonville, AR.

## 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 Thursday, Aug. 17. Practice each day will be from 3:15 to 5:00. Knee pads will be provided.

GMS Football begins on Friday, Aug. 18. Practice each day will be from 3:15 to 5:00. However, eighth grade players will meet with the coaches on Wednesday, August 16 from 3:15 to 4:30 to check equipment and have a short conditioning workout. Seventh graders will do the same thing on Thursday, August 17 from 3:15 to 4:30.

Athletics schedules for the 2017 - 2018 school year can be found on the district website 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 by 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 Brannon Kidd (bkidd@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](http://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 \$291 (\$97 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](http://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 \$291 (\$97 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. 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.