



August/September Newsletter
Scribner-Snyder Community
Schools
2022-2023

From the Principal's Desk

Dear Patrons:

We hope everyone had a wonderful summer break, it is hard to believe it is fair time and the start of school. As we head into the 2022-23 school year, we know our students will be excited to be back in school with all their friends and in their classroom.

We want to welcome our new staff members, Hanna Sedlacek (elementary SPED), Kris Reinert (6th Grade), Megan Stock (K-12 Art), Marie Kieffer (para-professional) Jennifer Wordekemper (para-professional), Bobbi Papousek (para-professional) Jeff Tlamka (school psychologist), and Randy Schnoor (food service). Mrs. Stewart, our kindergarten teacher, will also be welcoming Zoey Bergman to her classroom. Ms. Bergman is a college student from UNK and will be doing her student teaching at SSCS throughout the first semester.

Teacher workdays were scheduled for August 8th-9th-10th, which gave our staff a chance to have some being of the year trainings and to get their rooms ready for their students. Also new this year was a Pre-K-12 Open House on the evening of August 10th. During this event the elementary parents and students visited their child's classroom and Mrs. Wegner will be handing out family packets. Our Technology Coordinator, Nick Ell, will be at school to do a computer roll out, and Mrs. Schulenberg will be handing out students' schedules for the 7-12 students. Mr. Stithem also planned an activity for students to go around the campus and obtain all their teachers' signatures on their schedule. Once the kids get all these signatures, they showed their schedules to him and received a can of pop.

Another new event on the first day of school will be a K-12 assembly. At this assembly we introduced new students and staff members plus reviewed the new PBIS (Positive Behavioral Intervention and Supports) Program the school is implementing this year. After the assembly ended, the 7th graders remained for their orientation. The elementary front doors will be opened at 7:30 a.m., and the high school doors will be unlocked at 7:45 a.m. Students wishing to eat breakfast will again report to the commons areas. Elementary students who are not eating will report to the gym.

We want to wish our softball, volleyball and football teams much success this fall as they kick-off their sports season. If you get a chance please take some time to attend their games and support our student-athletes. Wishing everyone a happy and healthy fall.

Respectfully Yours,
Mr. Stithem

FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT

September 2022

By Joe Peitzmeier

WELCOME BACK! The 2022-23 school year is about to begin! I hope you all are as excited as I am to get the school year under way. It has been another busy summer for our custodial and secretarial staffs. They are to be commended for the outstanding jobs that they have done getting the buildings ready for students and staff.

The staff was busy last year creating a positive behavior support system. You will be seeing a lot of evidence of this program as we progress through the year. We are all excited about how this will enhance our climate and culture and provide an even safer environment for all students and staff. You will be seeing a lot about: Trojans will: "Be Safe", Be Responsible", "Be Respectful".

I am very excited to be working with all of you to provide a quality education for the students of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. I look forward to working with staff, school board, and the community.

FREE & REDUCED PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM. By now many of you have received a packet of information concerning the federal free & reduced-price lunch program and application form. If you qualify for this program, please take advantage of it. The information remains confidential and absolutely no distinction can be made between children in the program and other children. The purpose of the federal lunch program is to ensure that every child has a nutritious meal, and we encourage your participation. **I also want to remind you that the Federal Government is not providing free breakfast and lunch this year.**

In addition, the number of children identified as eligible for this program determines the amount of money our school receives for Title I, state aid, and several other state and federal programs and grants. Even if your child does not eat lunch at school, completing an application form can help generate needed state and federal funds for our instructional programs. If you have any questions, please contact Deb Wegner at Scribner-Snyder Elementary School.

STAFF CHANGES: We have several new faces at SSCS for the 2022-23 school year. Please welcome them to the Scribner-Snyder school/community:

Megan Stock – K-12 Art Teacher

Hanna Sedlacek – Special Education Teacher

Kris Reinert – 6th Grade Teacher

Randy Schnoor – Kitchen Worker

Marie Kieffer– Elementary Paraprofessional

Rylee Williams – Activities Director Intern and assistant volleyball coach

Jennifer Wordekemper – Elementary Paraprofessional

Bobbi Papousek—Elementary Paraprofessional

IN CLOSING, I want to wish everyone a very successful school year. It is up to all of us to meet the immediate needs of today and to think about the future and how we can apply what we learn. This is especially true in these unprecedented times as we continue to work through the COVID-19 Pandemic. Wearing a mask whenever possible, staying home when sick, getting vaccinated and washing hands often will go a long way to keeping our school open.

Active participation in the classroom and in activities will provide countless opportunities for students. At the same time, we all want to consider what we can contribute to the school community. I am confident that we will have a great school year. It is up to all of us to be positive and wake up each day and tell ourselves "It is going to be a great day!" If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or visit the schools.

FIRST ANNUAL
SCRIBNER-SNYDER
FUN FEST
MOHR AUDITORIUM • SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 2022

**NOW ACCEPTING DONATIONS
FOR SILENT AUCTION**

•WHO CAN DONATE•
INDIVIDUALS
ORGANIZATIONS
BUSINESSES
CLUBS

•WHAT TO DONATE•
GIFT BASKETS
INDIVIDUAL ITEMS
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CERTIFICATES

QUESTIONS OR TO VOLUNTEER
CONTACT MALIA NEMECEK AT 402.664.2567

Determined not Deterred

By Shandera Simpson

Big dreams lead to great results. Scribner-Snyder's Resource teacher, Ms. Keene works in the Special Education/Life Skills program. She works to prepare her students for the real world, outside of school and home life. Keene not only teaches, but she coaches the LVSS softball team and the Scribner-Snyder track team. Keene has always been proud of her teams and consistently has something inspirational to keep the teams going strong. She pushes her students to do their best not only in the classroom, but outside of it as well.

Keene is a big team player and has integrity in everything she does. "I'm looking forward to the softball season and getting a bunch of wins because we have a really great team. I'm also really excited to watch the girls play because they've been working really hard, and also super excited for the track season. Go track!"

Keene does an amazing job with her students and is always there for them when they need something. She will always give a student or staff member a friendly wave when one passes her in the halls with a smile on her face. Keene is approachable and always willing to talk to anyone who may need anything.

Keene doesn't just teach in her classroom though; she explores the campus and enjoys watching her students do what they love. "I go to music and P.E. with the second-grade class, so I really enjoy watching the students that I have go with them and seeing how much fun they have when interacting with their peers."

When asked what she liked most about Scribner-Snyder, Keene had this to say about loving the small communities she serves, "Even though I don't live in the community, I love the connection that other people have with each other and just seeing that... I love seeing them [students] around town when I drive through town." She supports all her students in everything they do and teaches them to do day-to-day activities that they will need further in life.

There's never a dull moment in Keene's classroom and the funny moments don't just last at school, they go home with her, and she can continue laughing about it. "I don't have a specific moment because in my room we're just trying to figure out life and we have a lot of funny moments, where we stumble, and we fumble. I'd say each and every day I go home and I'm happy because I have something to laugh about."

Even with teaching, educators have their pet peeves and Keene's is interesting. "My pet peeves are negativity and road rage. When people are really negative about things that others do, you don't know what they're going through, and you don't know if there's a reasoning for them doing what they did; they could be just doing their best."

Keene's elementary years were interesting because in third and fourth grade she had the same teacher both years. Her teacher didn't even have a teaching degree, because she had been a lawyer previously. "She was a very knowledgeable woman and I feel like I learned the most from that teacher. I admired her because the first thing she did with her students was build a relationship."

When asked what she held on to most from college Keene said, "The biggest thing I feel I held on to from college is building relationships with the students." Not only was building relationships an important aspect to her, but actually being able to teach the students was eye-opening. "If you don't have their first needs met, it's harder to teach them. If you have kids in the classroom that are tired, hungry, thirsty, and their basic needs aren't met, there's no way you could go forward without fulfilling that first. Also remembering that sometimes kids have a lot of other things that go on that we don't get to see in the eight hours that we have them."

Keene has some great ideas and is always on her toes. She keeps pushing no matter what. "I feel it'd be really cool if we could have a pool on campus. A special education building where my students can cook on campus would also be really amazing. Even a house set up would be really cool and help the students feel like they're in a natural learning environment."

Keene's favorite component to her job is seeing growth in her students. "We do a lot of drill and practice, drill and practice. Just a lot of things over and over again and by the end of the year when a kid learns fifty words from the beginning of the year, that's an amazing achievement." Succeeding is something Keene looks for in her students and teaches a bunch of variations of everyday activities. "If the student couldn't cook at all at the beginning of the year and by the end they can make a whole meal, that growth is really awesome." Another thing she feels proud of throughout the day with her students is when they're using previous knowledge and going back to use the skills that she's taught them. "I love watching them problem solve."

Being a teacher isn't always easy because one can miss things from their childhood and being a student. Keene said, "I miss class parties. When you'd have parties as a kid, it was always so fun, and it felt like it lasted all day even though now I know it was probably only thirty minutes long and it was just so much fun. Now it's fun to watch the kids. I love seeing the excitement they have."

Keene's teaching career started in high school when she was the student aide in a Life Skills classroom. "I just fell in love with it. I got to make really good connections with the students, and I could see how much they needed peer interaction and how much they needed just that much support, and I was like, 'Wow, that's something I'd like to do.'"

Mr. Stewart: Putting The “Story” In “HiSTORY”

By DesiRae Svehla

What happens when a person who has been in one place for a long period of time ends up leaving to find someplace better? When a person has left their hometown, they will never forget the experiences and the stories they have been told. When one wants to hear the best story that has been told, one should ask the History teacher at Scribner-Snyder, Mr. Bob Stewart.

Mr. Stewart has some of the best stories from his hometown in Lennox, South Dakota. When asked about what made him inspired to become a teacher, Stewart said, “Teachers that I had growing up were role models. I taught swimming lessons at the pools I worked at as I had WSI (Water Safety Instructor) certification and eventually had LTI (Lifeguard Training Instructor) certification to teach kids to become lifeguards. I then began helping coach little kids in wrestling back in high school, and baseball in college, etc.”

When asked what he is looking forward to this school year Stewart said, “Continuing to work with the new materials that were ordered last year. ...I always look forward to junior high track. Mr. Ruzicka and Ms. Piper are such a hoot to work with; we have such a blast.” Stewart also said that he loves to work with teachers he has a connection with and is willing to learn about the new teachers.

Stewart said that his favorite qualities about Scribner-Snyder is, “We have a solid group of teachers, staff, and kids. We have had some rough patches in my time here, but we rally around #TROJANPRIDE. ...I would be remiss if I didn’t mention the “holiday meals” that are prepared before Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Easter. They are amazing! Dead serious, amazing.”

Stewart also enjoyed being a kid, explaining that he misses, “Not adulting. Competing in sports, really not having a lot of responsibilities. Oriole Olympics on the morning of Homecoming, and I miss my paper route.”

What interests Stewart most about the subject he teaches? Stewart said, “So many stories out there. Every person, family, community, etc. has a story.” Stewart also said that his favorite president is “George Washington”. Stewart loves the stories about presidential history.

When asked what he missed most about South Dakota Stewart said, “Chislic/The Black Hills/winters/family.” Stewart also loves, “South Dakota State University in Brookings. I met the love of my life at that university, just something about that place at that time. Every teacher here probably has very fond memories of their time in college, and I am no different. I enjoy going back and seeing all the changes, not just on campus, but around the community as well.”

Roots, Returning, and Relationships

By Andrea Hass

To be a kid again. Teachers love their work but sometimes it would be nice to go back in time. For Art teacher Mrs. Stock, it would be, "...missing having someone else to do the grocery shopping." Some parts of childhood carry with us, like Art. Stock said she loves and is excited to teach Art in her first year at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. The skills Stock enjoys teaching the most are painting and clay working, because "...it's colorful and the kids love it."

Teaching can have its ups and downs. It can be funny and serious. Stock explained a past experience at her previous school, "I had this kid that had my coffee cup. The kid put a foam sticker in my coffee cup. When I saw her the next day, I asked her why she put that in my coffee cup. She said, 'Oh, you found the green hair I put in there.' 'No, I found the sticker', I said. 'Oh, I put my hair in there too.'"

All teachers have pet peeves. Stock said hers is mechanical pencils, "Kids carry them around with them and use them on art projects, and they are hard to erase and leave streaks on the paper."

Her favorite part of Scribner-Snyder Community Schools is, "The flexibility of being able to give the kids a personalized education." If Stock could change anything about Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, it would be adding new and different learning spaces. "...a newsroom, like a studio."

Stock said the reason she became a teacher is because, "I really loved this teacher Mrs. Merit. She was my high school band teacher. She made me want to be in band forever. I thought I was going to be in...the next *Fantasia*."

One thing Stock looks forward to every year is, "Meeting and getting to know all of the kids." Stock's favorite part of the day is the morning, because the kids will walk in and tell her about what happened to them the previous day or how their weekend was. It is exciting for a former Scribner-Snyder High School graduate to join the staff as the new Art teacher.

Scribner-Snyder Community Schools

<div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> September 2022 </div>						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat
28	29	30	31	1	2	3
			Long Johns Chicken fajita, Spanish rice, chips & Salsa, pineapple	Cereal/toast Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, peas, mixed fruit		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NO SCHOOL	NO SCHOOL	Pancake on a stick Pork patty, mashed potatoes, corn, peaches	Cinnamon Rolls Hamburger pizza, bread sticks, lettuce, pears	Cereal/toast Crispito, chips & salsa, lettuce, pineapple		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
Breakfast Rounds Chicken strips, curly fries, corn, mixed fruit	Waffles BBQ pork sandwich, chips, baked beans, pineapple	Breakfast sandwich Tater Tot Bar, cooked broccoli, cookie, peaches	Turnovers Open Face Pot Pie, peas, fruit cup, apricots	Cereal/toast Quesadilla, Spanish rice, lettuce, pears		
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
Combo Bar Chicken legs, mashed potatoes w/gravy, California veggies, apricots	French Toast Tater Tot Casserole, green beans, dinner rolls, pears	Muffins & Yogurt Corn Dogs, chips, baby carrots, oranges	Cereal/toast Chili, cinnamon rolls, fruit cup, peaches	No School		
25	26	27	28	29	30	1
Biscuits & Gravy BBQ Rib on bun, fries, corn, apricots	Bagels w/cream cheese Shepard's Pie, California veggies, dinner roll, mixed fruit	Parfaits Walking Taco, lettuce, refried beans, mandarin oranges	Assorted Danishes Beef Tips over potatoes, peas, dinner roll, peaches	Cereal/toast Chicken sandwich, baked beans, chips, pears		

* = Event displays only on this view