



SCRIBNER-SNYDER COMMUNITY  
SCHOOLS

May On-Line Newsletter 2022

**FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT**

By Joe Peitzmeier

As I sit down to write this, I have just finished with graduation rehearsal. Congratulations to all the graduating seniors. This is an exciting time of year and Wow! Summer is almost here. Where did the school year go?

As we near summer, we are working to finish up our to-do list. The administration and secretaries are working to finish up much of the state reporting that is necessary, and the custodial staff is gearing up for cleaning every inch of the buildings getting them ready for the return of kids in August.

I want to take a moment to thank the following three staff members for their dedication and commitment to our students, school, and communities. Their combined 40 years of service to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools will be sorely missed. I wish them all good luck as they pursue their future endeavors. Thank you: Sarah Lallman (1 year); Marsha Silver (21 years); and Carol Toman (18 years). I want to introduce Megan Stock (K-12 Art Teacher); Hanna Sedlacek (K-6 Special Education Teacher); and Kris Reinert (6th Grader Teacher) to our staff. I really look forward to working with all of them.

In closing, I want to express my appreciation for the incredible amount of patience, flexibility, and determination our staff, students, school board, and parents have shown throughout this past year. We all have exhibited tremendous resiliency as we transitioned from the Covid pandemic protocols to a bit more of “normal” operations. It all has been a challenge and I think we are all stronger now.

We concluded our Continuous School Improvement Process and will be sharing the results once we receive the final report. I am hopeful that you all can have a rejuvenating summer and prepare yourself to come back this fall ready to learn and meet the challenges of a new year. We have been working hard this past year developing a new behavior support system and are excited to institute that program next year.

If you ever have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me. On a final note, “Please keep in mind that students who continue to read over the summer are more likely to gain ground educationally.”

# Where Everyone Connects

By Hunter Weyer

Let's take a step into the agriculture world with Mrs. Michelle Ryun. Mrs. Ryun is the Ag teacher for Scribner-Snyder High School. Ryun graduated from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and teaches a wide variety of classes such as Introduction to Agriculture, Plant Science, Natural Resources, Food Science, Animal Science, Agribusiness, Advanced Animal Science, Welding, Woods, Ag. Mechanics, and Junior High Ag.



“I love the opportunities that our students get in a small school. They can participate in everything, becoming more well-rounded individuals. In addition, I like the teacher-to-student ratio; guaranteeing that our students receive the help that they need. This ratio also helps foster teacher-student relationships. Likewise, the small class size helps foster students getting along with those who are different from themselves. In a larger school, students may be able to just choose a completely different friend group, and ignore those who are ‘different’ from them; but here you get to know everyone, and learn how to deal with those who are different from yourself.”

Ryun has been employed with Scribner-Snyder Community Schools for 11 years. “My first job was a long-term substitute position at Sioux County High School in Harrison, NE. I then taught at Emerson-Hubbard for three years. I substitute-taught for one year at Bergan Elementary, Scribner-Snyder, and West Point; and have now been at Scribner-Snyder for 11 years. That puts me at 15 years in the classroom.”

When asked what other profession she would do, Ryun said, “I would be interested in working in Cooperative Extension or youth ministry. I had a dream in college to run an Agricultural Literacy camp. If that was an actual thing, I would do that! My hobbies of baking and crafting have the potential to be a job, but I think I’d prefer to just do them recreationally.”

With Ryun teaching a lot of classes, she is able to help students pave the way for many different career opportunities. “Hopefully I help to prepare students for careers in the agriculture industry. But, even if they don’t go directly into Ag,

school in general and FFA help prepare students for any career. FFA helps to develop a variety of skills such as public speaking, decision making, working on a team, service, responsibility, etc., that all employers appreciate. Being on time, accepting of criticism, listening to directions, and being respectful are all skills that employers are looking for.”

Being an Agricultural instructor brings a lot of memorable moments and a lot of opportunities. When asked what her most memorable moment was, Ryun said, “Hmmm...this is a tricky one. I feel like there are so many little moments that add up to an overall experience – I’m not sure I can pinpoint one. I guess just watching students succeed in what they set their mind to. Whether that be giving the Creed, watching chicks hatch, or succeeding in their Supervised Agricultural Experience; student success is very memorable.”

Ryun has some final advice for her current and future students. “Find what you are interested in and take advantage of opportunities! Be willing to problem solve; instead of just seeing a roadblock, figure out how to work around it.”



## **Passionate Planner**

By Cloe Lundry

Mrs. Malia Nemecek has been working in the educational field for 10 years. This is her first year in an administrative role at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. She attended the University of Arizona for her undergraduate degree, got her administration degree at University of Nebraska-Kearney, and she also has a math specialist degree through the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Prior to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, Nemecek also worked for Clarkson Public Schools.

During Mrs. Nemecek’s first year at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, she has come to realize that she has learned a lot as an Activities Director. “...I’m finally feeling like I’m knowing a little bit more of what’s going on and learning my duties; so just understanding the job responsibilities better.”

Mrs. Nemecek believes that there are many benefits to a small school. One of those reasons being that everyone knows each other. She also stated, “Everyone has an opportunity to be

who they are and to be known for what they're good at and what they excel in ...I went to some larger schools when I was young and you only knew your teachers and your classmates that attended those classes, so I love the fact that I've only been here a year and I know most of the kids."

With the end of the school year approaching quickly, many students will be facing changes in the next year. Whether it's graduating students who will soon be attending college or sixth graders who will transition into junior high, Mrs. Nemecek believes in the same thing for those students. "The best advice I would give students is build relationships, don't be afraid to ask, and always just try your hardest."

Mrs. Nemecek has previously worked as a first-grade teacher. The biggest difference for her as an Activities Director is sitting at a desk. "I didn't spend a lot of time at a desk; you were up moving around all the time so in this role, sitting and doing data and scheduling games, I'm sitting at a desk a whole lot more and not interacting with kids; I miss that."

Mrs. Nemecek is very passionate about her position in education. She specifically enjoys working with children while she is working at school. "One of the things that I love the most about education is that ...when kids feel like somethings hard, they don't give up and they see they can do it, and just watching them do what they thought they never could."

The most memorable moments for Mrs. Nemecek during her time working in education so far are when she gets to interact with the students. "I just love being around kids, and I have kids that will come and help me video tape and they're anxious to come do that and I love meeting them in the hall and saying hi and good morning and just those interactions ...if they need some place to come, they can come in and say hi to me."

For the first time this year, Mrs. Nemecek has been working at the school that her daughter attends. "The worst part about working in the same spot is driving to school together, but the best part is seeing her throughout the day and it's something I haven't ever had the opportunity with Rylee to do, and a lot of people have asked how it's going, 'Does she like you at work?' and I think she really does, and I really like being here with her."

Mrs. Nemecek believes that Scribner-Snyder Community Schools has very good programs, looks forward to providing adequate space or resources for them. When asked what activities she would like offered, she said, "We have a great One-Act crew, and we can't host things because the lighting isn't where it needs to be. We're looking at different opportunities with Girls Wrestling, and we're just limited on space with that, so just more than anything, having the space to add programs, and even the afterschool programs. It's a tight area where they're at."

Mrs. Nemecek will continue in the role of Activities Director next year, passionately advocating for our students and programs.

## Imaginary Numbers, Real Success

By Savanna Lundry

Ms. Synek has been working in education for seven years and she earned her undergraduate degree at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

When asked about how her first year of teaching went at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, Ms. Synek said, “I feel it’s gone very well, and yes, I’m really enjoying the new students, getting to meet everybody, all the teachers and students and their families and getting involved with all the activities at school and getting to teach some different books and different classes, so I’ve really been enjoying it.”



Ms. Synek did not follow the same path as other members of her family, where History was more popular. “Math was not necessarily my favorite subject. My family was more into History. My dad was a Political Science major, and my mom was a teacher, but she was into History as well. So, I liked Math; it was one of the core subjects. Ninth grade Algebra One was the turning point. I was like, ‘I really like this, and I seem to really get it. Well, maybe this would be a good thing for me to teach.’”

When asked what other careers Ms. Synek would be interested in doing, she said, “Probably something in research.” Ms. Synek enjoys experimenting with a variety of teaching methods. “I do a lot of examples. I try to be very exact and direct when I teach, and I also try to use a lot of review and repetition.”

Ms. Synek has experienced gratifying moments in teaching. “It’s probably towards the beginning that you teach, and people seem to not be understanding it, and then getting to a point in the year when everyone’s hands are up, and they know how to do it. Just realizing that they actually learned how to do it and they are really starting to master the material, the assignments, and the satisfaction with that.”

Even though Ms. Synek likes all forms of mathematics, she does have her favorite classes to teach. “I think my favorite classes to teach are Algebra Two and Trigonometry. Within those, I really like going over the functions, but the imaginary numbers are my favorites...I really like going over polar graphing as well in Trigonometry.”

Overall, Ms. Synek enjoys helping students. “I really like getting to work with students and watching them understand the material. They go from not understanding at all to getting it little by little. I really like it when students get to the point when they can actually just do it on their own. It’s like, good, you really learned a lot this year.”

## SAVE THE DATES

- May 7–Graduation Ceremony
- May 9–FCCLA Banquet
- May 11–Board of Education meeting
- May 12–District Track @ Humphrey
- May 13–Honor’s Night
- May 16–Elementary Fun Day
- May 17—Elementary’s Last Day
- May 18—Jr./Sr. High Last Day
- May 20-21—State Track @ Omaha
- August 11—1<sup>st</sup> Day of School,  
22-23 school year