



# Scribner-Snyder Community Schools Newsletter

November/December, 2021-2022

*From the Principal's desk*

Dear Patrons:

The school year is flying by, we wrapped up the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the semester on October 14<sup>th</sup>. The staff and students enjoyed fall break on Monday, October 18<sup>th</sup>. The winter sports season is gearing up with basketball games/ wrestling meets starting in a few weeks. We encourage everyone to get out and support our student-athletes.

We'd like to give special thanks to Mrs. Wuestewald, Mr. Poessnecker, Mrs. Schafer and all the other staff members/students who are working to have an in-person Veteran's Day Program to be held on November 11<sup>th</sup>. On this day, coffee/cookies will be served at 9:00 a.m., with the program to follow at 10:00 a.m. in the gym. Veterans Day is always an exciting time to recognize all our past and present veterans for their service. We hope everyone can come and support our veterans in-person on November 11<sup>th</sup>.

On Wednesday, November 3<sup>rd</sup>, SSCS's junior class will be attending the Dodge County – County Government Day in Fremont. On this day, the juniors will have the opportunity to learn about what the various county employees do while working at the Dodge County Court House. To end the event the students will be treated to a pizza lunch and will play a game of "Jailhouse Jeopardy" provided by the Dodge County Sheriff's Office. A big thank-you to Mr. Stewart for registering the kids for the day as this event is always enjoyed by all.

Mrs. Enos and the One Act participants have been working hard the past couple months preparing for the upcoming season. It takes a lot of time and dedication to be a part of this activity because the practices take place in the evenings after sports practices have ended. This year the One Act Team will have 33 students involved with this program.

On November 23<sup>rd</sup> there will a 1:30 p.m. dismissal with a teachers' in-service to be held from 1:30-4:00 p.m. Next, our staff and students will be enjoying Thanksgiving vacation on November 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>. The end of the first semester will wrap up December 22<sup>nd</sup> with a 1:30 p.m. dismissal with Christmas break to follow on Dec. 23<sup>rd</sup> -Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>. On Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>, the staff will return to participate in an all-day teachers' in-service. The 2nd semester of school will begin Jan. 5<sup>th</sup>.

We're hoping everyone is enjoying the mild fall weather and that harvest is going well. Wishing you and yours a blessed upcoming holiday season with friends and family.  
Respectfully Submitted,

Mr. Stithem

# FROM THE DESK OF THE SUPERINTENDENT:

By Joe Peitzmeier

As of this writing, I can hardly believe that we just completed our 48<sup>st</sup> day of school. Where does the time go?

**WE DID IT!** This is our moment to take stock in what we have done to preserve Scribner-Snyder's future in the uncertainty and anxiety of the global pandemic. I cannot begin to thank each of you enough for standing by SSCS. I am honored to lead this school district and work side by side with such great people.

One year ago, I wrote in this newsletter that our goal was to provide in person face-to-face education to our students, all the while, implementing safety protocols to minimize the spread of COVID-19 in our community. I am very pleased that our plan worked and we completed last year accomplishing that goal. I believed in our students, staff, friends, and community and trusted that we could work together to overcome the daily trials associated with the pandemic.

Throughout the demands of teaching and learning during a pandemic, we also never lost sight of the future of Scribner-Snyder Community schools. The school board had decided to move toward the future as Scribner-Snyder Community Schools, on our own – merger talks are a thing of the past and we will do all we can to continue the outstanding education we provide our students. In this upcoming year, the school board will be investigating the facility needs of the district to provide the best resources to ensure the best education possible.

Again, thank you for your diligence and stay safe. I wish everyone a great school year and hope that we continue to work together for the best possible education for our kids.

If you ever have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to call or visit the schools.

## **School Closing/Dismissal Information**

\*Please understand that safety for students is the main concern in the decision to close schools.

\*When school is dismissed early for bad weather, students who drive their own vehicles and live outside the city limits will be required to contact their parents by telephone prior to leaving school.

\*Bus/Van students will ride the bus/van home as usual.

\*Parents are asked to listen to KFAB 1110 radio, KTIC 107.9 (The Bull), or Channels 3, 6, or 7 in Omaha, and the School Website for any school closings, late starts, or early dismissals in case the weather is threatening.

\*On late starts, we typically plan to start school 2 hours late. We realize that some roads are more hazardous than others and we do not expect students or parents to endanger their safety in order to get to school. If a student legitimately cannot get to school because of weather conditions, they will be excused.

\*In case of late starts, early dismissals, and/or school closings a message will also be sent out on School Messenger





## 5<sup>th</sup> grade adventures

The fifth grade has had a great start to the school year! This year, we have a new science curriculum that provides many hands-on activities for the students. We currently



are learning about ecosystems and living things. Students have each had the opportunity to plant seeds and watch them grow over time. This year we also have a new computer program called IXL. This program allows students to practice math skills we are learning in the classroom. Our class has answered over 5,000 questions so far which called for a celebration of root beer floats! Another exciting event that fifth grade has participated in this year was the Missouri River Expo at Ponca State Park. We spent a day at the park learning how to build a campfire, cook food over a campfire, and even had the opportunity to throw tomahawks and spears. With such an exciting start to the year, we can't wait to see what else is in store for us!

### Dates to Remember

- Nov. 1<sup>st</sup>**—EHC Honor Choir @ Stanton
- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**—Picture Retake Day
- Nov. 4<sup>th</sup>**--7-12 Fall Music Concert, 7 p.m.
- Nov. 7<sup>th</sup>**—Daylight Saving Time
- Nov. 8<sup>th</sup>**—SS Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Nov. 9<sup>th</sup>**—FFA Greenhand Night @ S-S
- Nov. 11<sup>th</sup>**—Veteran's Day Program @ S-S, 9 a.m.-Coffee/10 a.m.-Program
- Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>**—Winter Sports Kick-Off @ L-V; EHC One-Act @ Lyons-Decatur
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>**—1:30 p.m. dismissal for Thanksgiving-Classes resume Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>
- Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>**—Red Cross Blood Drive @ Mohr Aud., 9 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- Nov. 29<sup>th</sup>**—FCCLA Community Dinner & One-Act performance @ S-S, 6:30 P.M.
- Dec. 2**—District One-Act @ Shickley
- Dec. 13<sup>th</sup>**—S-S Board of Education meeting, 6:30 p.m.
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**—Elementary Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.
- Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>**—Junior Class Christmas Cookie Tray Sales prior to concert
- Dec. 20<sup>th</sup>**---7-12 grade Christmas Concert, 7 p.m.

# Ms. Piper: Her Passion for Science Soars Over the Net

By Jenna Baumann

Bump, set, spike. That's right. It's Ms. Piper's time to shine in her 6th year of teaching at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. Ms. Piper teaches high school Science courses and is currently coaching volleyball. She enjoys the fall season because, "It's always volleyball season. That's always exciting."



When it comes to the classroom, Ms. Piper's favorite class to teach is Anatomy. She finds it is interesting to learn about the human body. Experiments also take place in the science lab. When it comes to conducting those experiments, Ms. Piper's top choice is dissection. Thus far the students have been able to dissect a pig's heart.

Ms. Piper was inspired to become an educator, because of her mother who was also a Science teacher. Her high school Math teacher, Mrs. Weitzenkamp also motivated her to go into the teaching profession. She's continuing to learn while working on her Master's degree in Biology through UNK. "I enjoy the classes, but it's kind of challenging teaching school, work, and coaching."

The most rewarding part of her job is, "...getting to see students grow and change as they make their way through their high school experience and the relationships with students and athletes." Ms. Piper will be serving aces in the classroom throughout the year.



## Small School, Big Heart

By Jenna Baumann

Not everything comes in a small size. At Scribner-Snyder High School, the students are fortunate to have the help of Mrs. Rathjen who comes to work every day with an extra-large heart.

For 8 years Mrs. Rathjen has been a supportive adult at Scribner-Snyder High School by helping with the following classes: Life Skills, Science, Social Studies, Math 8, and Algebra 9. As a paraprofessional she enjoys helping with the Life Skills courses the most. Mrs. Rathjen is a valuable asset to our school.

Mrs. Rathjen was inspired to apply to Scribner-Snyder Community Schools via word-of-mouth, "...a family member told me about the need for a para and encouraged me to

apply.” While she’s been working here, Rathjen has enjoyed watching the children grow and mature as individuals. When Rathjen was attending school as a student herself, she enjoyed her Home Economics and Computer Programming classes.

For the upcoming Halloween holiday, Mrs. Rathjen intends to have a cookout with her family. Outside of school, she enjoys being a mother and grandmother and hanging out with her family.

Mrs. Rathjen enjoys working with staff and students. She brings a lot of compassion and care into her work.

## Trifecta of Languages

By Cloe Lundry

Why? “Because French.” In Room 402, one will hear this as a common response to a student’s puzzled demeanor while learning French. Mrs. Danielle Schroetlin has been a teacher for fifteen years, with this being her ninth year at Scribner-Snyder Community Schools. She teaches French and Spanish. She earned her degree at Wayne State College in Nebraska.



Schroetlin doesn’t do anything in the classroom for Halloween, but in her Spanish classes they celebrate Day of the Dead, which is November first and second. They talk about why the Spanish cultures celebrate the holiday, and then have a fiesta to celebrate.

On a scale from 1-10, Mrs. Schroetlin would rate the first quarter an 8. She is doing a lot of cool activities in the classroom and said, “...the kids are excited to be back in school so there’s always that good energy at the beginning of the year. So hopefully that can continue throughout the rest of the year.”

Her favorite part of teaching different languages is teaching the beginning parts with the numbers, colors, and the alphabet. “It’s easy so the kids tend to pick it up really nice. They’re excited about it and there aren’t a lot of worksheets; we do games and songs and stuff so that’s always a lot of fun.”

Beyond the English language, Mrs. Schroetlin also knows Spanish, French, and Sign Language. The only language she would consider herself to be fluent in is English, but she said she’s pretty close in Spanish. She can read French, but doesn’t speak it as fluently as she would like, and she’s pretty decent at sign language.

The first time Mrs. Schroetlin learned any sign language was in elementary school when they learned the alphabet in class. She didn’t learn Spanish or French until she got into

high school when she took Spanish her freshman year, and French her junior year. A few years ago, when she was at church, she started picking up more sign language.

When learning new languages, Mrs. Schroetlin found that going from French to Spanish was easy because they're both Latin languages and there's a lot of similarities in the words and the structure. She knew about conjugation, adjective-noun agreement, and masculine and feminine so there wasn't a barrier there. She added, "Sign language was completely different because there's no solid structure as far as rigid things so it's a lot of memorizing."

Mrs. Schroetlin has taught her children a little bit of the languages she knows. "All three of them sign a little bit; my oldest daughter really got into Spanish, so she knows some, and the middle one really liked French, so I've been working French with her but they're not fluent. They just know numbers, colors, letters, and basic things."

She believes there are many benefits to knowing multiple languages. "In this part of the country, I think it's really beneficial to know Spanish because there is a large population here. It can help you get a job and get paid more. It helps me learn English better, and it just triggers a part of the brain; it's like a puzzle and so it makes your brain kind of work a little bit."

Mrs. Schroetlin has taught many students the languages of French and Spanish. Although parts of the languages can be confusing to learn, such as the grammar in French through the conjugations and noun agreements. She has done a great job guiding students.

## Where the Heart Is

By Savanna Lundry

Joyful. Passionate. Caring. Optimistic. Invested. These are all fitting adjectives to describe one of the veteran teachers at Scribner-Snyder Elementary School, Mrs. Wuestewald. She has been teaching at Scribner-Snyder Elementary School for 32 years and currently teaches second grade. She worked at a rural school for two years teaching kindergarten through sixth grade and at Snyder Elementary School teaching a combination room of third and fourth graders.

Every educator has a reason as to why they become a teacher, "I wanted to be a teacher because in the summertime in my college years I worked in a daycare...so they had me do preschool activities in the daycare. Then I decided, 'Oh, instead of going into social service, I'm going to go into teaching, because I enjoy doing that'."

When asked why Wuestewald chose second grade she responded, "I liked second grade because I like the little-er students. I enjoyed teaching fourth graders, but the second graders were just really eager to learn...They're just really enthusiastic and I guess I just wanted a grade change."



The first quarter is coming to an end and Wuestewald said, "I think the year is going really good; I've got eighteen great students, they're smiling, they're happy to be here. I'm excited to teach them, and I just think we're off to a great start."

Some teachers have moments when they are proud of what they do. Wuestewald explained, "...When the students are doing well academically and behaviorally, and I feel like I have really gotten across to them, and they have learned a lot, and they're successful, then I'm really proud."

When asked which subject she likes the most she said, "My favorite lesson to teach. I like all of them, but I probably like math the best. I guess I like working with numbers and it's fun to see their little light bulb go off in their head when they get the concept or the skill..."

Wuestewald has always incorporated a party into Halloween. "For Halloween in second grade we have a Halloween party, so the students sign up for treats and games and prizes and drinks. On Halloween we play games and then we enjoy drinks and snacks." She has always let the students wear their Halloween costumes for the party, but they aren't allowed to wear them all day because they could get distracted.

As a veteran at Scribner-Snyder Elementary School, she still has a lot of passion and care for her students and their education.

## From the Bank to the Classroom



By Hunter Weyer

Let's take a step into the banking world with Mrs. Rachyl Kafonek. She has been a librarian for grades K-12 in the district of Scribner-Snyder for almost two years. She also teaches Personal Finance and Accounting to high school students, with her favorite unit being "Budgeting" in Personal Finance. She also loves the differences in ages she gets to work with while being a librarian, "I get to see all the elementary kids over a week. I love the variety!"

She's more of a fan of fall and Thanksgiving than Halloween. The Personal Finance class will be doing a "Friendsgiving" project. The students will plan a meal, plan who will bring each dish and the cost. Then they will create a grocery list and budget to accompany it.

Kafonek is a former bank manager. This experience helped her prepare for the personality differences she encounters when teaching students. It also gave her personal experiences that she could relay to the students to help them understand concepts and their application. Most of the examples she gives come from her life.

She also had to switch classrooms this year and is now currently using the library as her classroom. "It's a big change from last year and it has taken some adjustments to get used to the openness. I like having just one location to teach from instead of three." She has been positive about the change saying, "It's been a great year so far. Getting to know the students without masks and seeing everyone's faces!"

When asked why she thinks Personal Finance should be required here at Scribner-Snyder High School she said, "Every student, no matter their future goals or professions, will have to deal with the things we learn in class. For most people they are not things that are automatic but must be learned. Knowledge is power when it comes to money."

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## EducationQuest to host a free Virtual College Fairs

**Wednesday, November 10:** 5 p.m.-8 p.m. CT  
**Wednesday, December 8:** 9 a.m.-noon CT

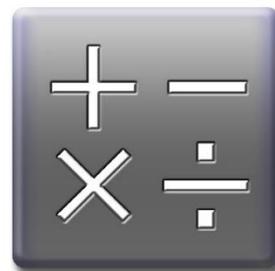
During this event, students can visit 78 college booths, chat with college reps, and view live college-prep presentations. Students, family members, and counselors can register at [eqf.org/collegefair](http://eqf.org/collegefair).

**FAFSA opened October 1** --The [2022-23 FAFSA](#) opened Friday, October 1. EducationQuest has lots of free resources to help your seniors and their parents prepare for and complete the form.

- [FAFSA Tools](#) help families through the process. They include:
  - [Financial Aid FAQs](#) answer common questions about financial aid.
  - [Paying for College Video Series](#) provides a quick overview of the types of colleges, financial aid, the FAFSA process, and how colleges award aid.
- [WhyFAFSA webpage](#) explains why students should complete the form.
- [Free virtual appointments](#) are available for those who need assistance completing the form.

## 3<sup>rd</sup> Grade off to great start!

Third grade has been very exciting this year, we have been working on a lot of new and interesting things. Students have been working on multiplying and dividing this year which the students have picked up very quickly. They seem to be gaining more techniques and tricks each day to improve their skills. We also have a new science program this year in which students have been working a lot with motion, forces, directions and speed. Students have been very good in class and have caught on to the class routine very quickly and are beginning to really settle in and learn to their fullest potential. I look forward to another exciting and fun year in 3<sup>rd</sup> grade!



# Mrs. Stewart's Kindergarten Class Update

The 18 kindergarteners have been busy. At the end of September, we went to Harvest Moon Pumpkin Patch in Oakland, NE. The students had a great time and the weather was fabulous. Thank you to the S-S PTA for paying for our admission. In October, we finished the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter of the school year and we will have a Halloween Party. In November we will make decorations for the upcoming Veteran's Day Program. In December, we will end the 1<sup>st</sup> semester and we will have a Christmas/Winter Party. We will also learn a lot along the way. As the year continues to roll along we will continue to:

- \*Encourage reading whenever possible
- \*Encourage independent writing
- \*Reinforce number recognition, and counting by 1s, 2s, 5s, 10s, and 25s
- \*Reinforce listening and following directions
- \*Reinforce letters, sounds, and high fluency words
- \*Participate in reading groups
- \*Learning new vocabulary words
- \*Writing and reading sentences

## *School News from Mrs. Nemecek*

It's hard to believe we are finishing the fall sports season. The softball team ended their season 10-16. Congratulations to Cailey Stout for earning 1<sup>st</sup> Team All-Conference honors. Football also finished their season on Oct. 22nd with a 4-5 record and volleyball at the time of this writing is competing in sub-district action. A thank you to all athletes, parents, and coaches; there is a lot of dedication from everyone to make these activities successful.

Mrs. Schafer and her eSports team hosted a tournament on Oct. 9<sup>th</sup>. There were approximately 75 students participating from area schools. The majority of schools came to Scribner-Snyder and two joined remotely. The Army National Guard visited during part of the tournament and provided STEM activities for the students. Two gentlemen came from Wayne State College to commentate the game play. While our students did not win the tournament, they had a wonderful time! A thank you to Great Plains Communications and Skywave for their sponsorship.

The winter sports season is around the corner. We will be hosting the majority of Jr. High and Freshmen basketball games. Come out and cheer on our teams. The athletes enjoy a crowd.

If you are a youth basketball coach and need to use the SS gym for basketball practice, please shoot me an email – [mnemecek@sstrojans.org](mailto:mnemecek@sstrojans.org). We can get your team scheduled. The gym fills up fast.

The Booster Club is planning to host a soup supper on Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>. This will be held in conjunction with the Elementary music program. If you are a booster member, please mark your calendar. We will be reaching out for help that evening. If you have not signed up to be a booster club member or wish to buy a Trojan Pride yard sign, please contact myself or Becky Hull.