

2021-2022 New Watchdog Hires



The Beresford School District is excited to introduce the following new Watchdogs!

Matt White -Matt White is our new Spanish teacher. Mr. White graduated from Lincoln High School and Michigan State University. The former Patriot/Spartan is looking forward to starting his career and growing our Spanish program. Mr. White enjoys playing baseball and being active in his spare time. In addition to being our Spanish educator, Mr. White will be our 7th-Grade Boys Basketball Coach.



Deb Tjeerdsma -Deb Tjeerdsma is our Special Education (SPED) Life Skills educator. Before joining us as a full-time staff member, Mrs. Tjeerdsma subbed for the District. While subbing, Mrs. Tjeerdsma enjoyed our kids and staff. In her spare time, you will find Mrs. Tjeerdsma reading. Mrs. Tjeerdsma joins us with 35-years of SPED experience. More so, she is a graduate of Midland Lutheran College.





Kallie Kocmich -Mrs. Kocmich is joining Watchdog Nation as a 6-12 paraprofessional. She graduated from Wall High School, and Kallie is a former Watchdog student. In her spare time, you will find Mrs. Kocmich taking her dogs on walks. Mrs. Kocmich wants our community to know that she is “excited and eager to work for the Beresford School District.”



Kristin Schmeling -Kristin Schmeling is our new 6-12 vocal instructor for the Beresford School District. In Mrs. Schmeling’s free time, she loves to read (lately, she is reading children’s books to her kids). Mrs. Schmeling graduated from Mitchell Senior High and Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota. Mrs. Schmeling is looking forward to meeting her new students and growing our vocal music programs. In addition, Mrs. Schmeling is looking forward to seeing our continued community support at our vocal concerts.



Jessica Paopao -Jessica Paopao is our English Language Learner (ELL) coordinator and teacher. Mrs. Paopao is excited to be a Watchdog because the Beresford community feels like family. More so, she cannot wait to work with our EL learners. Jessica graduated high school from La Grande, Oregon. She is a graduate of Eastern Oregon University. When not in the classroom, Mrs. Paopao likes to work out, spend time with her two sons, cheer on her husband (a member of the USD coaching staff), improve her Spanish skills, and travel.



Catie Ganschow -Catie Ganschow will be our newest Kindergarten teacher. Ms. Ganschow is excited to join Watchdog Nation to get to know the families in the community while helping instill a love of learning in our youngest Watchdog. Ms. Ganschow graduated high school from the Wakonda School District and college from the University of South Dakota. When not in the classroom, you can find Ms. Ganschow spending time with her son and taking her dog for walks.



Ashley Knudson -Ashley Knudson will be our English Language Learner (ELL) tutor. Ms. Knudson will spend most of her time at Beresford Elementary School. She is excited to be a Watchdog so she can teach young children and watch them grow. Ashley is a former Watchdog graduate. More so, she also graduated from Northwest Iowa Community College. Ms. Knudson is currently attending the University of Sioux Falls for elementary education. When not helping learners, she loves to hunt, spend time with friends, and watch movies.



Trisha Voegeli -Trisha Voegeli is joining us to be a 6-12 paraprofessional. Ms. Voegeli is excited to start a new phase in her life and feels that the Beresford School District is the place to be. When not helping learners at school, Trisha likes to paint and spend time with her family.





Darla Hamm -Mrs. Hamm is joining Watchdog Nation as our newest second-grade educator and eighth-grade volleyball coach. Mrs. Hamm is excited to be a Watchdog because she loves the feel of the school and town. In addition, Mrs. Hamm has appreciated how Beresford has been so welcoming. Mrs. Hamm graduated from Byers High School in Byers, Colorado. She earned her undergraduate degree from Regis University in Denver, Colorado. Mrs. Hamm's two Masters degrees are from the University of South Dakota. When not teaching or coaching, Mrs. Hamm loves to spend time with her family, attend her children's events, watch movies, play games, and be outside.



Joelle Wood -Joelle Wood is one of our new 6-12 paraprofessionals. Ms. Wood is excited to be a Watchdog so she can be close to her family/nieces. Ms. Wood graduated from Oroville High School in Oroville, California. She also graduated from Santa Barbara City College in Santa Barbara, California. When not at school, Ms. Wood loves to spend time with her friends and family.



Teri Beeson -Teri Beeson will be one of our elementary paraprofessionals. Ms. Beeson is a graduate of the University of South Dakota. Teri is excited to be a Watchdog because of the time she spent last year subbing for our District. Ms. Beeson found the time with us to be a blessing, and she enjoyed getting to know our learners. When not working with kids at Beresford Elementary, Terri loves spending time with her daughter, enjoys traveling, concerts, and tacos.



Alyssa Scott -Alyssa Scott is joining Watchdog Nation to be a paraprofessional at Beresford Elementary School. Ms. Scott graduated from Central Lyon High School. She also graduated college from Southwest Minnesota State University. Outside of school, Ms. Scott enjoys playing cards, working in her garden, and spending time with her friends and family. Alyssa wants us to know that she is a fun and energetic person who loves the opportunity to work with kids -her favorite part of the journey is seeing a child's "lightbulb" moment.



Brittany Wessel -Brittany Wessel will be our new junior/senior English instructor at Beresford High School. Mrs. Wessel is excited about working with students to help them become more confident in themselves and their ability to impact others positively. Mrs. Wessel has an undergraduate degree from the University of South Dakota and a graduate degree (Masters) in English from Idaho State University. Outside of school, Mrs. Wessel loves spending time with her four-month-old -Brooks.



Ann Tornberg -Ann Tornberg will be Teaching HS Speech and Debate Class and coaching Oral Interpretation, Speech and Debate. Mrs. Tornberg started her career in Beresford, and she is excited to come back for the activities she loved the best. Mrs. Tornberg loves to read, quilt, travel, and hang out with her grandkids outside of school. Mrs. Tornberg is a Watchdog Hall of Fame member, Beresford High School Graduate, Augustana Graduate, and University of South Dakota graduate (MA).





Belinda Miller -Mrs. Miller is joining Watchdog Nation to be our next 6-12 principal. Mrs. Miller is excited to join the Watchdog party and help support our learners and get them back on track this school year. Mrs. Miller graduated from Gettysburgh High School and earned her undergraduate degree from the University of Minnesota-Morris. She furthered her education with a Master's degree from the University of South Dakota and a Specialist degree from the University of Sioux Falls.

Outside of school, Mrs. Miller enjoys officiating volleyball, golfing, reading, and camping. Mrs. Miller is excited to join us and humbled to be a part of our Watchdog community.



Jean Akland -Jean Akland is one of our new 6-12 paraprofessionals. Mrs. Akland graduated from Beresford High School and Western Iowa Technical Community College. Not only is she a Watchdog, but also her entire family has been a part of Watchdog Nation. Outside of school, Mrs. Akland loves anything outdoors, playing board games, and watching or coaching her son in his sporting events. In addition, Mrs. Akland practices servant leadership by volunteering her time to help with youth activities for sports or church.



Ben Short -Ben Short is our new fourth-grade educator and head boys basketball coach. Mr. Short joins us from the Sioux Falls School District. Mr. Short is a graduate of the Canton School District. More so, Mr. Short earned his college degree from the University of South Dakota. Mr. Short is committed to helping our learners grow (academically) and develop (habits and skills) to be world ready.

