



# New faces in Garretson for the new school year

by Zachary Uhl  
staff writer

In the Garretson School District, we welcome five new teachers: Ms. Denyelle Ageson (DA), who is the new 5th grade teacher; Ms. Anna Nelson (AN), teaches Title Math; Ms. Tina Reiter (TR), who is a Reach



Anna Nelson has been a great fit in Garretson, combining her love and passion for math with her affinity for the small school setting. Nelson joins Miss Mac in the Title Room.

Counselor; and Ms. Mallory Zell (MZ) and Ms. Stacy Williamson (SW), who are educational assistants. The Blue Ink asked the teachers some questions so the school could get to know the newest Blue Dragons better.

## Q: Why did you come to Garretson?

- DA: "I was placed in Garretson for my student teaching last year, and there happened to be an opening for 5th Grade this year! I loved my student teaching experience here, so when I heard about the opening I knew I had to apply!"
- AN: "My husband and I built a house close to town and this is where my kids will go to school. I also missed the small town/small school atmosphere that I grew up going to school in!"
- TR: "I came to Garretson, because I like working in a smaller district and the staff have been friendly and supportive."
- MZ: "I chose to come to Garretson to begin my job as an Educational Assistant on kind of a whim. I had been an accountant for 12 years and decided I wanted to begin a career that more aligned with my current priorities and passions."

## Q: Do you enjoy having the students you have?

- DA: "I love working with my 5th graders! I learn something new about them everyday! They are a fun group and make me excited and happy to come to school each day."
- AN: "Yes! Garretson has been so welcoming and I have loved meeting all the students in the elementary!"
- TR: "I enjoy the students that I am working with and am excited to meet more students and have them in class."
- MZ: "I have only been in my position for a very short time, but so far, I truly enjoy the students I get to work with and those I just see in the halls and in class. Garretson is lucky to have a pretty great student body!"

## Q: How long have you been in school?

- DA: "1st year teaching. I graduated this past May with my Bachelors in ELED/SPED."
- AN: "This will be my seventh year of teaching."
- TR: "This is the first year in a school setting."
- SW: "My family moved from Texas to Garretson in 2002, I was an Elementary Paraprofessional for four years in Garretson and then worked with students at LifeScape for the past 15 years. I am beginning my 30th year in the education field."

## Garretson welcomes five new staff into the classrooms

### Q: Where did you go to school?

- DA: "I attended high school in West Lyon and college at Dakota State University."
- AN: "I went to high school at West Lyon and college at Augustana College."
- MZ: "I attended high school in Worthington, MN. I attended South Dakota State University for the start of my undergraduate, but finished it at Globe University in Sioux Falls. I then attended the Minnesota School of Business out of Woodbury, MN for my Master's Degree in Business Administration."
- TR: "I went to Adams State University in Colorado for my Master's degree and South Dakota State for undergrad."
- SW: "I attended Texas State University."

### Q: What is your favorite topic to teach?

- DA: "This is a tough one...I would say Reading or Science."
- AN: "Math"
- TR: "I am part of the REACH program and do not have a subject that I teach. I enjoy being able to teach lessons on social/emotional and life skills."
- MZ: "Math is my passion. I love to read, but math is my favorite, hands down."

### Q: What are some activities you employ to engage students into learning?

- DA: "I am a big fan of group work and using centers to keep the students engaged."
- AN: "Games and hands-on learning"
- TR: "I am hoping to do lots of team building and group activities in my classroom."
- MZ: "My favorite thing to do is either make a math joke, or talk about how much I love math and how they can grow to love it too! None of them seem to agree, but it lightens the mood and starts a dialog. Getting to know their interests in return has given me the opportunity to start the process of building our relationships."

### Q: What are some things that you look forward to this school year?

- DA: "Working with students and staff and watching the students learn and grow. Getting to know the community of Garretson."
- AN: "Helping my students grow in math."
- TR: "As a new staff member, I am excited to see what homecoming looks like here. I'm also excited to continue to meet students."
- MZ: "I think there are so many things to look forward to! I am excited to watch the students I work with learn and grow in their academics. I am also looking forward to getting to know the staff I work with better. I am hoping by the end of the school year I won't have to ask for directions to Mr. Bohl's Algebra class."



Fifth grade teacher Denyelle Ageson is officially new to Garretson this year, but got her Blue Dragon feet wet last year as a student teacher in third grade.

*"New teachers" continued on page 2*

## This Week's Need to Know

**FACT OF THE WEEK:** The American flags left on the moon will eventually turn white, because of sun exposure.

**LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK:** You can erase unwanted highlighter marks by dipping a Q-tip in lemon juice.

**JOKE OF THE WEEK:** What kind of tree does a math teacher climb?

**BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK:** Solve this rebus puzzle.



Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

## Upcoming Events

### Friday, August 27

- XC @ Beresford (4:00)

### Saturday, August 28

- VB @ Canton Tourney (9:00)
- Soccer v. Worthington (12:00)
- FB v. Hanson (6:00)
- Parents Night (FB and XC)

### Tuesday, August 31

- XC @ MCM (4:00)

### Thursday, September 2

- JHVB v. Baltic (4:00/5:00)
- VB v. Baltic (5:00/6:00/7:15)
- VB FAN THEME: Hawaiian

### Friday, September 3

- FB @ Parkston (3:00)

## Worth Mentioning

**REMINDER:** All schedule changes need to be taken care of ASAP.

**FREE FOOD** thanks to government assistance programs in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, breakfasts and lunches are free again this year. Extra items, including additional entrees, milk, or ala carte items need to be paid for.

**GOOD LUCK** to the Cross Country team as they open their season in Beresford today.

**COUNTDOWN TO BREAK: 7 Days**  
After Friday, September 3, we have the next few days off because of Labor Day. We return to school on Tuesday, September 7.

# New teachers continued *From page 1*



After previously working as a paraprofessional in Garretson, Stacy Williamson returns to that same role after spending time teaching at LifeScape in Sioux Falls.

**Q: What is the most unexpected event that has happened?**

- AN: "Teaching in a pandemic was definitely unexpected and challenging. It has changed the way we teach and reach students!"  
 - MZ: "The most unexpected event that has happened in my short week working at the school was tripping in the hallway on the way to my classroom. There is one spot in the floor that must be a little high, and I trip on it daily!"

**Q: What do you like to read?**

- DA: "I enjoy reading mystery/thriller books."  
 - AN: "Picture books are my favorite, especially when I'm reading to students or my own kids."

- TR: "I like to read nonfiction mystery books. Robert Dugoni, Harlan Coben, and Karin Slaughter are some of my favorite authors."

- MZ: "I like to read all kinds of books. My favorite series ever is Harry Potter; my goal is to re-read it over Christmas



As an educational assistant, Mallory Zell has found a way to blend her love for numbers with her passion for kids as she works with middle and high school students in math.

Break."

**Q: Do you have any hobbies? If so, what are they?**

- DA: "I enjoy golfing, playing volleyball, fishing, reading, and spending time with my family and friends."

- AN: "I love spending all of my extra time with my husband and kids on the farm."

- TR: "I really love to read and bake."

- MZ: I love to chase my kids around to their various activities: that is my number one hobby. I also enjoy spending time at our lake cabin on the weekends in the summer, tending to my chickens on our acreage, and of course sneaking in a good book whenever I have some free time.

- SW: "My hobbies are gardening and playing games with my grandchildren."

So there you have it, a little in sight to the new teachers of the Garretson School District for the 2021-2022 school year.



Tina Reiter joins Garretson as another counselor for the middle and high school. Much of her time here will be focused on the REACH program and Life Management classes.

## Homecoming prep has started **Athletic Update**

*Homecoming court announced*



Congratulations to the homecoming court as selected by the senior class. King Candidates: Tayson Swatek, Adam Hulscher, Jayse Miller, Dylan Kindt, Cadyn Ockenga, and Ryan Flanagan; Queen Candidates: Jaelyn Benson, Morgan Pierret, Chloe Schleuter, Maren Bonte, Mya Long, and Lily Ranschau. High school students will vote for the king and queen next week.

*All fall sports in full swing*

by **Danika Juhl**  
 staff writer—editorial

### FOOTBALL

The Blue Dragons took in a new recruit Jenna Van Holland. The first female kicker for the Blue Dragons.

"Honestly, it doesn't feel like there's a huge difference between me and the boys on the team. Everyone has been super supportive and welcoming to me since I've joined the team," stated Van Holland.

Her thought on the first practice will be a time to remember. "My first thought was "Is this how I put my pads on?" Truthfully, I was absolutely lost. I almost came out wearing my pads on the outside of my pants."

However, Van Holland has seemed to get in the groove as she nailed three of her four kicks in the season opener at Viborg-Hurley including her first ever attempt as well as the game winning PAT.



Jenna Van Holland donned on the pads and came in clutch for the Blue Dragon gridiron gang in their season opener, making three of four PATs in a 43-42 win.

### *Dress up days and events*

**MONDAY, SEPT. 6**

- **Dress Up Day:** None: no school due to Labor Day
- **Events:**
  - Coronation (7:00) at the Athletic Complex;
  - Powderpuff football (following coronation) at the Athletic Complex

**TUESDAY, SEPT. 7**

- **Dress Up Day:** Class Color Day
  - Seniors: black
  - Juniors: orange
  - Sophomores: green
  - Freshmen: pink
  - Staff: purple

- **Events:** Ruff 'n' Tuff (2:00) at the Dragons' Lair

**WEDNESDAY, SEPT. 8**

- **Dress Up Day:** American Day

- **Events:** Early out

**THURSDAY, SEPT. 9**

- **Dress Up Day:** Jersey Day
- **Events:** Float Building

**FRIDAY, SEPT. 10**

- **Dress Up Day:** Spirit Day
- **Events:** Dragon Olympics; Parade; All-School Assembly

\*Days and events subject to change



**GARRETSON**  
 BLUE DRAGONS



Lily Ranschau goes up high for the attack over the Mustang block. Ranschau ended up with nine kills that night and matched that tally last night against the Watchdogs.

### VOLLEYBALL

After a disappointing end to their season last year, falling one game short of the So-Dak16. Garretson is ready to start fresh and finish what they started.

They came out with an impressive 2-0 start, both wins being straight set victories over Tri-Valley and Beresford.

The Blue Dragons test their endurance tomorrow as they enter play at the Canton tournament, slated for four matches throughout the day.

### SOCCER

The Garretson soccer team has found the back of the net fairly consistently this season which is bringing a renewed energy to the team but securing the win has still been a bit of a struggle.

The Blue Dragons are 1-4 on the season with a win over Huron last week, but dropped close matches to Vermillion, Groton, Tea Area, and SF Christian.

Garretson hosts Worthington tomorrow at 11:00 am with junior varsity to follow.



Raegen Altman takes control and moves the ball downfield putting the pressure on the Tea Area defense.

# Where are the snacks?

by **Mav Houg**  
staff writer—editorial

Many students are hungry and wondering what they can do to get a snack for the 3rd period if they do not have one.

In previous years students had the ability to purchase snacks in the study hall room right at the beginning of the year, but have not been able to this year nor can students sell snacks to others who are in need of them.

The junior class president, Matthew Gilbert, is concerned about this lack of snacks to eat. "I usually like to have a birthday cake cookie from the cafeteria, but when Mrs. Gloe was here, I'd have a pop tart for snack, like all other students at the time had done in the previous years," stated Gilbert.

"We are all falling on desperate times; we need a solution, and as the class president of the juniors I am on a mission to replenish our snack sources," said Gilbert. "I will be meeting with principal Mr. Long and study hall teacher Mrs. Costello to look into how we can pull out of these dark times."

Long said, "The reason we do not have study hall selling snacks is that we were just trying to kick off the year and we are currently trying to bring snacks back to study hall."



Matthew Gilbert, junior class president, took advantage of the availability of snacks to purchase in previous years and is now digging to the bottom of the mystery as to why they are unavailable to students so far this year.

Submitted photo

The most popular snacks were by far pop tarts from Mrs. Gloe and from Maverick Houg but now with the economy tanking due to COVID and Mrs. Gloe leaving Garretson High School it has been rare to find any source of pop tarts in the school.

"There is an end in sight, I promise to all students of Garretson High, thank you and god bless, Mathias Gilbert, Class of 2023 President, regional Pop-Tart sales manger, anti Pop-Tart famine force leader."

Seven days into the school year and students are still hungry for third period to return to its former glory.

# Tips and tricks

*Back to School Edition*

by **Zach Uhl**  
staff writer—editorial

During the first couple days of school, the students of Garretson may struggle to get back into the groove. Plus some students are new, so there are a couple of things that might make the day go a bit easier.

**Tip 1:** Walk on the right side of the hall. Just like driving, walking on the right side will never clear the hall, but make the traffic going through it easier for students to get from point A to point B.

**Tip 2:** One way to loosen up with your teachers is to find out what they really like and talk to them about it. For example Mr. Heumiller loves the popular restaurant chain HU-HOT. In one class period, we just talked about what we get and all the mix-ins involved with making the best plate of food. This is a rare occurrence but has proven to stop him from teaching for at least 20 minutes. After that, of course, we kept nagging him to have a field trip

to HU-HOT.

**Tip 3:** When parking, seniors have always gone in the front parking lot and the side road. Now in the back parking lot, park wherever you like; however, as soon as you park there for a day, that is your spot for the whole school year. You can't just park anywhere else when the weather changes. Also, if you take somebody else's spot, you really need to take full advantage of it, meaning that you need to pull through all the way. This allows for easy exiting.

**Tip 4:** At the end of lunch everyday except Wednesdays, the rule, emphasized by Mr. Steckler just yesterday, is to put all chairs at your table into one stack to help the janitorial staff in cleaning up the lunch room. The reason we have to stack chairs is that we are the last group of kids to eat on those school days.

There you have it: a few small tips to make your day go a little smoother as we all try to get back into a school routine.

## 2020-2021 Yearbooks

*It's not too late to snag a keepsake of your memories and experiences from last school year*



# Football wins OT thriller

by **Danika Juhl**  
staff writer

The Blue Dragons football team played the Viborg-Hurley Cougars, ranked #5 in pre-season polls, on August 20 for their season opener.

Knowing they were heading against a hard opponent, they made some preparations. "You have to be mentally and physically focused for the game. So we have to be ready for the week. Just have to get better everyday. 1% everyday: that is the hashtag for the year," said head coach Chris Long.

Despite the preparation, Viborg-Hurley scored first, 8-0 opening drive. Jenna Van Holland scored the PAT 7-8. "Before the first kick, I had so many things running through my mind. I was extremely nervous." This point was the first one in Garretson history scored by a female.

Coming out of halftime, the score was tied 14-14. But Garretson broke it, going up by two possessions. However in the fourth quarter, the Cougars took the lead. "Most stressful part was realizing we had the game in a pretty good shape, a 28-14 score and we let them score three touchdowns in a row which gave them an eight-point lead," stated Long.

The Cougars held the lead until the final minutes of the fourth quarter when Garretson was able to tie the game up and force overtime. Viborg-Hurley took their turn first of four possessions from the 10-yard



Senior Dylan Kindt gets the ball down as junior Jenna Van Holland attacks her first ever PAT. Van Holland booted the ball straight the middle of the uprights, scoring not only one point for the Blue Dragons but getting the first ever point for a female on the Garretson football team. Van holland went on to make two other PATs including the game winner in overtime.

Photo by Peyton Abraham

line to score and punched in a touchdown. However they missed on their two-point conversion.

In Garretson's OT turn, on the fourth down, senior QB Dylan Kindt completed a pass to senior Cadyn Ockenga to tie the game. Van Holland scored the winning kick for the Blue Dragons securing a 43-42 win.

While Van Holland looked calm as she took the field, she was anything but on the inside. "Before the winning kick, I had to stop myself from thinking. I found that if I think too much about the kick, I tend to not 'attack' the ball the same I would if I wasn't thinking," said Van Holland.

The Blue Dragons have now replaced Viborg-Hurley as #5 in the most recent rankings. Garretson hosts Hanson tomorrow night.

## Weekly Breakfast and Lunch Menus

*The food to fill your bellies for the upcoming weeks*

*Current Count*



1

**BREAKFAST**

- Monday, Aug 30:** Pancake Sausage Stick or Cream Cheese Stuffed Mini Bagels
- Tuesday, Aug 31:** Sausage Biscuit Sandwich or Cini Minis or Iced Long John
- Wednesday, Sept 1:** Egg & Cheese Taco Roll or Warm Apple Frudel
- Thursday, Sept 2:** French Toast Sticks or Iced Long John
- Friday, Sept 3:** Cinnamon Roll or Cream Cheese Stuffed Mini Bagels

**LUNCH**

- Monday, Aug 30:** Chili Cheese Fritos or Chicken Sandwich
- Tuesday, Aug 31:** Hot Pepperoni Sub or Cheeseburger
- Wednesday, Sept 1:** Chicken Ranch Pasta or Corn Dog
- Thursday, Sept 2:** Tater Hotdish or Chicken Nuggets
- Friday, Sept 3:** Fiestada Pizza or Ham and Pasta Hotdish