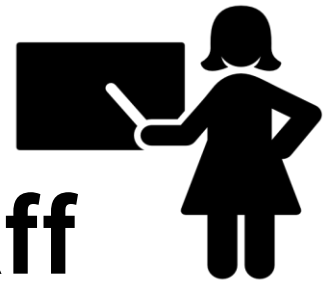


Avon School Welcomes New Staff



by Makenzie Sassaman

WHITNEY PODZIMEK

Whitney Podzimek had taught for eight years and then took a five-year break. Now, however, she is back in Avon School working as a SPED Paraprofessional.

In 2008, Podzimek married Kenny Podzimek who is also an Avon Alumnus. Together they have four boys: Parker, Palmer, Bode, and Brooks. She also has a “fur” daughter, Sissy who is a three-year-old golden retriever. Except for her college years, she has lived in Avon since she moved here in 1998. Podzimek said, “My husband and I knew we wanted to come back to Avon to raise our family and to be around both of our families.”

She taught in the Bon Homme School District for two years (in Tyndall and Springfield) and taught preschool in Avon for six years. Her favorite part of teaching is seeing all the students and staff. Podzimek said, “I’ve always enjoyed working with kids and creating fun, new relationships with them, but I also love being part of a community whose common goal is the same as mine.” She really enjoys her new position where she gets to see so many faces in one day.

Podzimek’s summer was full of sun, boating, knee-boarding, swimming, fishing, camping, visiting family, going on vacations and traveling. She does not like winter. She says

she doesn’t hold much in or hide who she is, and yet many people don’t realize that she is pretty open, loud, expressive, and very talkative.

THERESA SWIER

Theresa Swier, wife of Scott and mother to Sarah, Will, Kate and Molly, is an Elementary SPED teacher in Avon. She has been teaching on and off for 15 years. They moved to Avon when she and her husband purchased the local law firm.

Swier’s favorite thing about teaching is the students. She said, “I’ve always loved working with kids. I also had some amazing teachers who modeled what it means to be a great teacher.” Her favorite subject to teach is Book I novel studies. She has taught at the Sacred Heart School in Yankton, St. Joseph School in Pierre, and Lifescape in Sioux Falls.

This summer, Swier said she just enjoyed her family. Something many people don’t know about Mrs. Swier is that she has used Kevin Costner’s bathroom.

BETH KRCIL

Beth Krcil has taught for 28 years in the classroom and three years subbing. She is currently employed as a full-time substitute for Avon School. Krcil is married and has six grandchildren. She moved to Avon when her first husband got a job working for NWPS.

Krcil’s favorite thing about teaching is the people, students and teachers. She said, “I love working with kids and helping with whatever I can.” She taught in Marion for five years, and Avon for 23 years.

This summer, Krcil said that she mowed, mowed, mowed and then mowed some more. Something many people don’t know about Krcil is that she has learned to love baking, and she doesn’t like noodles.

SADDI WYNIA

Saddi Wynia, originally from Avon, lives three miles west of her grandpa, mom and dad, and brother. She says that she has too many fur babies and feathered friends to name. This is Wynia’s first year of fulfilling the role of school counselor.

Like most people in education, the kids and staff are what Wynia claims as her favorite part about counseling. She said, “I really enjoy working with people, and I like to help people who are struggling with different issues.” She has worked in social services for a few years in Sioux Falls, Wagner, and Lake Andes areas.

Wynia takes classes in the summer and volunteers at ROCS in Springfield. Something many people don’t know about Wynia is that she is ordained by the internet to officiate weddings, and she has officiated one wedding so far.

High school gains four students

by Kalee Mixon

JADEN MARTIN & JUSTINE MARTIN

Jaden and Justine Martin, the daughters of Bob and Donna, are 16-year-old juniors. Their siblings consist of Archie, Ivalo, Melody, Matt, and Justin. The Martins lived in Mifflinburg, Pennsylvania before coming to Avon.



Jaden's favorite pastimes are talking to friends and drawing, and her favorite subject is art. Justine enjoys going to Knoebels, an amusement park in Pennsylvania. Her favorite subject is math. Although the girls do not have pets, their siblings have two dogs and four birds. Jaden enjoys talking to her support people, and Justine enjoys welding.



TRINITY CHAISSON & JESSICA STREIT

Trinity Chaisson and Jessica Streit are the senior and junior daughters of Jaime (mom) and Eric (dad), and Jon (stepdad). Their siblings consist of Alexander, Nick, Iris, and Tristin. Before coming to Avon, they lived in Pickstown.



Streit stayed at home over the summer. Chaisson went with her dad. She also went to Arkansas to visit her aunt and went diamond mining. Chaisson's favorite pastimes are reading, coloring and painting. Streit's favorite pastime is playing Minecraft. Chaisson's favorite subject is art. Streit's favorite subject is English.

The sisters have a dog and cat. School has taught Chaisson to be ready for anything. Chaisson's best part of her day is to go home and read. Streit has learned basic knowledge for the new world. Streit's best part of the day is when she gets to go home to play and watch Minecraft.

Avon High School Gets Back in the Groove

by Haley Gillette

Kiara Driesen is a senior this year and will graduate in the spring of 2022. She wants to go to Mitchell Tech to get her degree in Animal Science. She believes her junior year was a successful year. She used her time wisely and didn't stress too much. Kiara's favorite subject in school so far is choir with Mrs. Schultz or Anatomy with Mrs. Carns. This year she is looking forward to starting One-Act Drama. Kiara can be described as funny, spontaneous, energetic, kind, and easy-going. Her favorite thing about summer was hanging out with her friends and sleeping in. Also, she can't think of one specific favorite memory, but the memory when she was camping with her friends was full of funny and adventurous moments.

Eli Watchorn, also a senior in the class of 2022, is thinking about going into computer programming. Watchorn's advice is to get good grades and stay out of trouble...some of his goals for this year too. His favorite subjects in school right now are art class and P.E. Watchorn is looking forward to making memories of the school year since it is his last year of high school. This past summer Watchorn went to the beach with Katie Gretschnann. His funniest memory during the summer was when he and Keegan McAdaragh went to work in Springfield. McAdaragh stepped out of his vehicle and slipped onto his back. Watchorn's friends describe him as funny, hardworking, spontaneous, creative, and adventurous.

Riley DeJong is a junior and will graduate with his class in the spring of 2023. When he graduates, he wants to own his own business. His advice would be to come to school and do your homework. This year he is looking forward to getting out early in school. DeJong describes himself as funny, exciting, outgoing, and very random. His favorite subject in school is Algebra II with Mrs. Gretschnann. Riley's favorite thing about his summer was hanging out with his friends. Unfortunately, his most memorable memory was crashing a dirt bike and breaking his collarbone this summer.

Madi Mudder will graduate with DeJong with the class of 2023. When Mudder graduates, she is planning on attending University of South Dakota to study dental hygiene. Her advice is to have as much fun as you can even though it can be stressful. Mudder is looking forward to cheering; she is on the football, and boys and girls basketball cheer team this year. Her favorite subject in school is Algebra II with Mrs. Gretschnann. During the summer, she worked at the Avon Pool as a lifeguard and, when she had free time,

she would go camping and attend baseball games. Her friends would describe her as short, thoughtful, easy-going, reasonable, and caring.

Hayden Talsma is a sophomore this year, and he will graduate with the class of 2024. When he graduates, he wants to be an architect. This year Talsma is looking forward to school activities and events. His favorite subject is chorus with Mrs. Schultz. Talsma's advice is to have your stuff like homework done on time. His friends describe him as funny, kind, artistic, loyal, imaginative, and an animal lover. Talsma's summer activities were mainly State Horse Shows. Finally, his funniest memory is his trip to Louisiana with his family and the things he came up with on a two-day car ride.

Grace Vanderlei is also in the class of 2024 with Talsma. When Grace graduates, she wants to go into photography. She is looking forward to volleyball and seeing her friends this year. Vanderlei's favorite class in school is Psychology with Mrs. Cahoy. Her advice is to get good grades, have fun but learn, get your work done, and study more. Her summer was spent with her friends. Vanderlei's funniest memory was with her sister and friend. They were all picking sweet corn and they shucked all of it while listening to music. They called it a "shucking party." Her friends would describe her as nice, sassy, sarcastic, funny, and ginger.

Kinley Doom is a freshman in the class of 2025. When she graduates high school she wants to be an elementary teacher. Doom is looking forward to Homecoming and sports this year. Her advice for school is getting good grades and doing your homework and studying. Doom's favorite subject is Algebra I with Mrs. Gretschnann. During the summer, she got to go to state softball. Doom's funniest thing during the summer was when she tripped over the base in a softball game. Her friends would describe her as kind, helpful, organized and athletic.

Conor Long is also a member of the class of 2025. He is not sure what he wants to do when he graduates high school. His advice for school is to get good grades and don't mess around. This year Long is looking forward to P.E. class. Also, his favorite subject in school is Algebra I with Mrs. Gretschnann. Long's friends would describe him as funny, creative, and good at driving bikes. This summer, he mainly hung out with his friends, so he made a ton of memories, but he couldn't pick one because they were all his favorite.