

UPCOMING ATHLETICS

- FB @ Alcester-Hudson (9/9)
- XC @ Luverne Invite (9/10)
- Soccer v. Dakota Valley (9/10)
- VB @. BEC Tourney in Chester v. Baltic (9/10)

UPCOMING ATHLETICS

- JVFB @ Alcester-Hudson (9/12)
- Soccer v. Vermillion (9/12)
- VB @ Flandreau (9/12)
- JHVB @ Flandreau (9/12)

September 9, 2022  
Volume 10, Issue 4  
Garretson High School  
Garretson, SD



**GARRETSON**  
BLUE DRAGONS

# Blue Ink



# New look for a new school year

by Tyler Erickson  
staff writer

This year at Garretson High school, there were a lot of updates and added decorations done to the school, like the stairs leading to the second floor being scraped and repainted, new vinyl on the entry door, painting in the ag building, and the new playground equipment.

The new head custodian, Melissa Jensen, said that next year's focus for updating will be the landing at the top of the stairs, and the stairs going up to the 4th and 5th grade classrooms.

She also said both sets of stairs took a month and a half to complete.

Jensen also would like to touch up the elementary hallways with dragon stencils and brighter colors.



**Above:** The activity entrance got a new look right before school, adding vinyl wrapping to match the updates that happened on the main entrance a few years back.

**Below Right:** The stairs received some much needed attention this summer. Rather than slapping on another coat of paint, Garretson's new lead custodian stripped them down and started from scratch. The summer crew layered on specific floor paint and added grip with the blue, white, and black flakes.



The outside of the school building received some updates just like the inside did. Adding a climbing wall and new swings to the playground has been a big hit with the youngest Blue Dragons. Also minor fixes were made to the windows and slides on the playsets.

Photos by Tyler Erickson



## Garretson Volleyball

09.08.22

Big East Conference Tournament



BERESFORD	25-18	25-19	25-21
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MCM	25-13	20-25	21-25	20-25
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The Blue Dragons went 1-1 last night in the first round of the BEC. Garretson will play tomorrow at 3PM vs. Baltic in Chester for the final round in the BEC.

## Garretson XC

Jesse James Invite



### Boys JV

Noah Schotzko- 17:25, 14th  
Nathaniel Roberts- 19:09  
Sebastian Deyoung- 19:25  
Talon Miller- 20:16

### Girls JV

Eliza Potter- 21:26, 18th  
Emma Hanson- 21:49



The cross country team will take action again on Saturday, September 10th at 9:30 in Luverne.

## FOOTBALL MATCH

Vs. Hamlin

09.03.22  
Garretson (0-3)



### Passing yards:

Blaine Trower: 2-6 (38yds)  
Cole Jessen: 3-8 (23yds)



### Rushing yards:

Carries-yards  
Joshua Gilbert: 1-22  
Carson Clark: 2-12  
Hunter Abraham: 10-11

### Receiving:

Receptions-yards  
Ian Buettner: 4-55  
Michael Olson: 1-6

**Next Up: Tonight the Blue Dragons head to Alcester to play the Cubs (3-0) at 7PM.**

## GARRETSON SOCCER (2-5)

FINAL SCORE VS. WEST CENTRAL

BLUE DRAGONS: 1  
TROJANS: 6



### Saves

Cortney Rogich  
23

### Shots On Goal

Joely Sterud: 3  
Jenna VanHolland: 6

### Goals Scored

Joely Sterud: 1

The Blue Dragons will play tomorrow September 10th at 11AM vs. Dakota Valley (3-3).

# New teacher, coach for Garretson

Jill Whalen comes to Garretson and immediately gets involved

by **Marieke Salomon**  
staff writer

The Garretson School District not only has two new principals, but also a few new teachers, one of who is the Blue Dragons' new soccer assistant coach too.

Ms. Whalen taught at an elementary school in Minnesota for a few years before coming back to South Dakota.

She was so kind to answer some questions about her professional life but also about her private life.

**1. What made you decide to become an elementary teacher?**

I have always enjoyed working with young students to teach them new things in fun and interesting ways.

**2. Have you worked somewhere else before you came to Garretson?**

Yes. I worked for the past seven years in Crystal, Minnesota as a Kindergarten teacher and before Minnesota, I taught 1st Grade in Presho, South Dakota, and coached volleyball for five years.

**3. How do you like it so far?**

I have enjoyed living in Garretson, getting to know my neighbors and colleagues, teaching my 1st Grade class, and coaching the soccer team. Everyone has been so kind, helpful, and welcoming!

**4. What was the best thing you experienced so far?**

I have had the most fun coaching soccer. It has been exciting to see our team's improvements throughout the season.



After spending a few years of teaching in Minnesota Jill Whalen is now an elementary school teacher and athletic coach in Garretson.

Photo by Marieke Salomon

**5. Do you prefer dogs or cats?**

I prefer dogs. I have a five-month-old black lab named Ace and he's pretty great!

I am thankful for the opportunity to coach some great student-athletes in the process!

**6. Where are you from?**

I was born in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, and lived in Canistota until I was about 10 years old. Then we moved to Gregory, South Dakota, and lived there until I graduated high school.

**11. What made you want to coach?**

My dad was a football coach for many years, and he seemed to have more fun coaching than he ever did playing a sport. He encouraged me to try coaching and I have had the greatest experiences since the beginning of my career. Watching my teams find success and work together to accomplish a goal is extremely fun.

**7. Where did you go to college?**

I attended Hastings College in Hastings, Nebraska.

**8. What are your hobbies?**

I like to golf, fish, walk my dog, read, and spend as much time outdoors as possible when the weather is nice.

**12. What is your favorite food?**

I have many favorite foods but pasta is my favorite.

**9. Have you played soccer in high school or college?**

I did not play soccer in high school; my school did not offer soccer as a sport. I participated in volleyball, basketball, and track in high school and continued to play volleyball in college.

Aside from Whalen being found in her first grade classroom or out on the soccer field, she has quickly become involved in other Garretson activities as well, including line judging at last night's Big East Conference Volleyball tournament.

Welcome to the Garretson School District Ms. Whalen!

**10. How is it for you to coach a soccer team even though you never played it yourself?**

I have always enjoyed coaching any sport even if I have a limited amount of knowledge. My understanding of soccer was very limited, but I have learned a lot about the game and

## Forgot to order your yearbook?



Lucky for you a few extras are available for purchase. Yearbooks cost \$30. Please see Mrs. B



Get ready because your 2022-2023 yearbooks can be reserved soon. Look in upcoming issues of the *Blue Ink* for ordering information so you can save this year's memories.

Also - if you did not receive your yearbook from the 2019-2020 school year, please come claim one. Thanks to a generous sponsor, John Garretson, if you were in middle or high school during that year, there is a yearbook waiting for you if you haven't gotten it yet.



# Creepy critters take over Garretson School

Entrances for the little flying mammals was closed up, but a few didn't find their way out

by **Rebekah Roth**  
staff writer

On Tuesday, September 6, students and staff at Garretson School recognized some peculiar mammals residing in the building. At least two bats were discovered that morning, right as students were returning from the long holiday weekend.

The first bat was found hanging on the wall by the main entrance in the commons and remained there well into the afternoon until the City of Garretson arrived to extract it. The second bat, however, has a much more adventurous story.

"I noticed the bat first period when I walked into Bohl's class. There was one laying two feet in front of me on the floor," recalled sophomore Martin Welch. "It wasn't that hard to catch the bat. We just

put the bat in a box and set it free outside."

"It wasn't anything out of the ordinary. My old house had bats for as long as I can remember, so I've always dealt with them. It didn't affect me much; Bohl and I took care of it."

Welch also mentioned, "I would consider Bohl the real Batman. He's a real stud."

The bats didn't just impact students though; English and history teacher Tim Hughes had his own perspective on the infestation.

"I was told by Mr. Bohl that there was a bat in his classroom Tuesday morning. The only bat I saw was on the wall in the commons area," noted Hughes. "It was hanging up—chilling and doing its thing."

"I live in central Sioux Falls, so I'm used to seeing bats all the time.

As a matter of fact, I just got one out of my house on Saturday. It didn't affect me at all."

"Bats are pretty pliable. They can fit into the smallest of cracks, so there's any number of ways they could have gotten into the building. Generally speaking they're going to come in through ceiling accesses," shared Hughes.

According to Varmint Guard Wildlife Services, bats are capable of squeezing into access points no larger than a dime. Typically, bats gravitate towards entrances in the roof, and then root themselves inside the walls or attics of buildings.

Two weeks ago, Melissa Jensen, the head custodian at Garretson School, found that there were bat droppings on the roof and informed



Garretson students and staff notice bats resting on the wall by the main entrance during the week of September 5. The city office's personnel removed the bat that afternoon after being contacted by the school.

administration.

Pest control was contacted and visited the school to remove bats and seal cracks the following week. However, not all of the bats were extracted from their crevices, which resulted in the critters being found inside the school building this week.

School administration reported the problem to the City of Garretson, who removed the second bat sometime after high school lunch. Then, the City conducted a bat

search throughout the school building and scanned the interior for possible cracks that the bats may have used to enter.

Opinions are split on whether or not bat infestations are going to be a reoccurring issue inside of Garretson school. Regardless, the shock these animals caused is enough for students and staff to remember this eventful week.

## The 10 best tic tac toe moves

by **Dmitriy Sysa**  
staff writer - editorial

Tic Tac Toe has been around since ancient Egypt, it's a classic game that we've all played at some point. Bored at church, grandma's funeral taking too long? Bust out the paper and pencil, grab a friend and play Tic Tac Toe.

Though it seems simple this game of lines and shapes is actually a game of war, blood, tactical maneuvers, and psychological manipulation. Since discovering the truth I have put together a list of top ten opening moves to eradicate your opponent.

**10. Bottom middle:** Nobody has ever chosen this spot to start, it's more of a late game spot. Even so it's just not good, it's bland and boring.

**9. Letting your opponent go first:** To win Tic Tac Toe it is beneficial to go first, so why would you under any circumstance let your opponent go first?

**8. Middle Right:** Another bland spot that nobody really chooses, not much to say about this one.

**7. Top middle:** Definitely a lot better than bottom middle, it's in a much better position and since it's on top it will psychologically affect your opponent to think that "you're on top."

**6. Top Left:** The worst corner, you shouldn't trust people who pick this...

**5. Middle Left:** For sure the best middle starting position. Since right handed people are proven to be predisposed to rightward direction you can use this to your advantage if your opponent is right handed.

**4. Bottom Left:** The second worst corner but still better than top left.

**3. Bottom Right:** A decent play and popular move for newbies, I highly recommend this if you're just starting out.

**2. Middle:** A classic move and for good reason too, it gives the ability to connect itself with all surrounding squares, it's also the only thing close enough to be considered a counter to the number one spot.

**1. Top Right:** The absolute perfect starting position. It's known by little but feared by many, if someone uses this against you you've pretty much lost. It's only counter would be middle which still can't even compare to the perfection of this glorious space.

In conclusion if you'd like to dominate your opponent in Tic Tac Toe you should refer to this list. Be sure to remember "nothing is worse than losing."

## Tic Tac Toe Challenge

The Blue Ink challenges Multimedia to a game of Tic Tac Toe. Blue Ink's move next week.

