

GARRETSON BLUE DRAGON TALES

OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

BE THANKFUL

for the difficult times.

During those times, you grow.

Be thankful for your limitations,
because they give you
opportunities for improvement.

Be thankful for each new challenge,
because it will build your
strength and character.

Be thankful for your mistakes.

They will teach you valuable lessons.

- TROY AMDAHL



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SUPERINTENDENT'S NEWS BY MR. GUY JOHNSON

We hope you like the new look!

Thanks for checking out our *new* Garretson School District Newsletter! We decided that a change in format might be just what the newsletter needed to better communicate important things with those who want to stay "in the know!"

We intend to email out a version of the news with interesting bits from elementary, middle and high school each month. We will still include links to our events and our food service every month. We've got a number of things to share this month, so take a look!

John Garretson purchases yearbooks

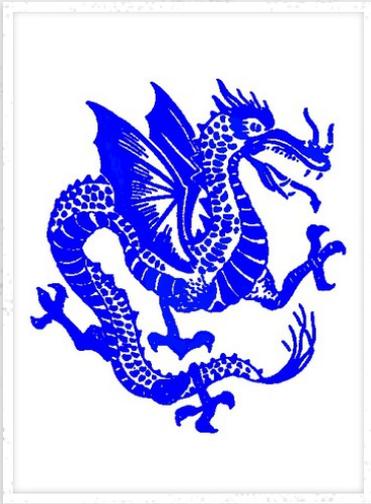
We sometimes field interesting phone calls in the office. A few years ago, we fielded a call from a man in New York, who had discovered that he was related to A.S. Garretson, and he wanted to find out a little more about the town that bears his relatives name. It was an interesting conversation.

This summer, I was contacted by a man named John Garretson, who lives in Idaho. Mr. Garretson started out the conversation by telling me that "yes, he is related to *that* Garretson, but hadn't been to the town." He went on to tell me that he'd like to do something nice for the kids in our school, and that he has always thought it was important that kids have a piece of history from their school, their yearbook. He went on to tell me that he was going to make a donation to our school to cover the costs of a yearbook for every student in grades 6-12 this year. A few weeks after our conversation, his check arrived in the mail. Every student in grades 6-12 will receive a yearbook this year, courtesy of John Garretson! We appreciate Mr. Garretson's generosity towards our students!

Student population is up, taxes are down

Last year, on the official State of South Dakota student count date, the Garretson School District had 480 students. This year, on the last Friday in September, the District had 496 students enrolled. Looking back, we have steadily been increasing our enrollment since hitting our low point of 463 students enrolled in the 16-17 school year.

By law, the school board is required to pass a budget by October 1. Our school board approved the District's budget at the September meeting. The Board did have the opportunity to discuss the budget over the course of several months. As we looked at the overall revenue projections and our planned expenditures, the Board was able to decrease the opt out from \$500,000 to \$350,000. When the original opt out was passed, the Board was up-front with the public that the District would only tax for an amount that was needed on a yearly basis. The Board followed through on their promise to the community. Taxpayers in the District will also see a decrease in their tax bills regarding the Bond Redemption fund. The District has one more payment on Bonds that were issued as part of the construction project in 2002. We looked closely at the Bond Redemption Fund's balance, and tax revenue from the 2nd half of 2019, and concluded that between those two sources of revenue, we would have enough to make the final payment. The Board passed a budget that levies zero taxes for Bond Redemption. Between the decreased opt out amount and levying zero for bond redemption, the District has decreased taxes in our community by approximately \$530,000!



FUEL THE DRAGON

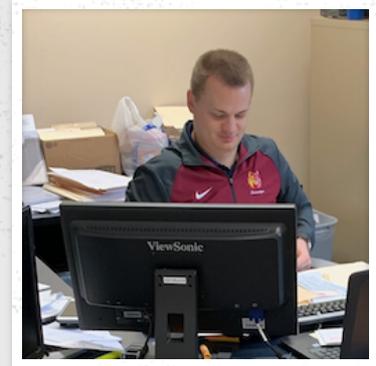
On the first Wednesday of the month, Palisade Oil donates 10¢ per gallon of fuel bought from all of their pumps.

September's donation was \$305.62 and it went to help TATU (Teens Against Tobacco Use).

October's group was the Garretson PTO and they received \$345.55.

MEET MR. JACOB SCHWEITZER, BUSINESS MANAGER

I started my Business Manager position with the Garretson School District on Sept. 1st. This is my first position of any kind in a school district. I am the oldest of 4 siblings. My lone sister is Teddy (24) and she currently teaches special education in Webster, SD. My two brothers are Owen (17) and Ramsey (14). They are a senior and 8th grader in the Harrisburg, SD School District. My parents are Kevin & Kara. I come from two very big families, with my dad being the youngest of 14 children and my mom being the only girl in the middle of 6 boys.



I graduated from Bridgewater-Emery High School in 2013 and from Northern State University in Aberdeen in 2018. I majored in Professional Accountancy with a minor in Banking & Finance. I ran cross country & track field throughout college, which took up the majority of my "free" time. I worked 15-20 hrs. per week at a couple different internships throughout college to gain some valuable experience. Being apart of a college team was an honor and something I am thankful for every day, as I have lifelong friendships because of my time on the track & cross country teams.

Although I have not worked in a school long and even though I don't work directly with the kids, being in a school atmosphere was a main reason I took this job. Kids bring a certain joy that I cannot find in just any workplace.

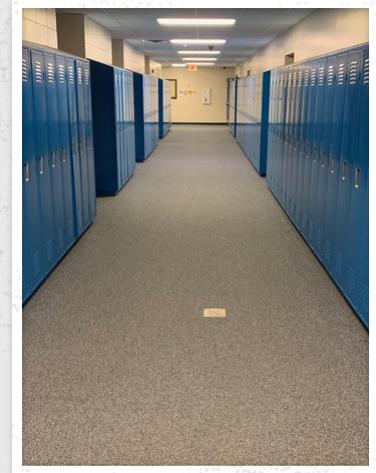
Sports have been the biggest part of my life and my hobbies all center around them. In the summer, I get on the golf course as much as possible. I still do some running, although not as much as I should. I love playing basketball, throwing the baseball around, and doing anything active that you can think of, such as hiking, swimming, etc. I watch every Duke basketball, Twins baseball, and Cowboys football game that I can.

Probably the most thrilling thing I've done in life so far is a a few summers ago I went skydiving, and I look forward to hopefully going again someday.



MS/HS HALLWAY HAPPENINGS FROM MR. CHRIS LONG, PRINCIPAL

Hello from the hallways of GHS/GMS! Each newsletter we plan to highlight some of the great events and activities that have been going on around the building. There's a lot of things going on each and every day and a lot of it doesn't make the "headlines", so this is the chance to recognize those groups for their outstanding efforts.



YEAH BAND!

The GHS Marching Band had a great fall. They participated in four contests during their marching band season notching two runner-ups (Arlington and Luverne) and two first-place awards (Beresford and Sioux Valley). Mr. Sittig's group was also recognized with outstanding drum line and outstanding flag corps awards at the Beresford competition.

It's not just using class time to learn the music when it comes to marching band. Everyone has to work together to make sure the entire band functions together when in their competitions and parades. The band spend several mornings a week practicing to get ready for these competitions and it obviously paid off.

Great job band, flag corps and Mr. Sittig on a great fall!

GHS HEADS TO ALL STATE CHORUS

Garretson will be represented at the South Dakota All State Chorus and Orchestra by eight students this fall in Sioux Falls. Aliah Lymon, Aftyn Heitkamp, Mattea Fiegen, Morgan Moritz, Mason Tillma, Gabe Johnson, Drew Pederson and Luke Knebel Koster will represent GHS and Mrs. Erika Brown's choir program.

All state is a chance for choir students from every school in the state to meet in one location and perform a concert together with guest conductors leading the practices and concert. This year the group will meet and practice for two straight days culminating in a concert with the All State Orchestra at the Denny Sanford Premier Center at 7pm on Nov. 2.

Congrats all for being recognized as all staters and have a great time!

MULTIMEDIA MULTI-TASKING

Mr. Schrank and his multimedia class has been quite busy this fall implementing their evolving skill set to produce a large variety of media content. From showing their creativity in editing

pictures to run on the local school channel to producing highlight and hype videos for the fall sports.

The class, consisting of 23, 9-12th graders, is project-based with students often working in groups to work toward coming up with the newest and freshest ideas for the class. Look for more and more coming from the class, you can get a look at a lot of their work on the Garretson School channel.

HOMECOMING HAPPENINGS

One of the big weeks of the school year is in the rearview mirror. Garretson's Homecoming week was Sept. 30-Oct. 4 and a lot of work went into that week from the Garretson High School Student Council and their advisor, Mrs. Jodi Gloe.

The group met often in the weeks leading up to homecoming week and the results didn't disappoint. One of our new staff members mentioned that they had been a part of many different homecomings and this was the best they'd seen in regards to school spirit and student participation.

Next on the agenda for the student council is planning and preparation for the fall formal, "Under the Stars" which is scheduled for Nov. 16th.

MENTORS MENTORED

The GHS mentoring program members received training through Volunteers of America on Oct. 17th in Sioux Falls. The program has been around GHS for several years brought to the district by Ms. Janie Lundberg and provides a high school student mentor for students that are in elementary and even middle school.

The program has been recognized for its' positive impact to the school and community in the past and we look forward to continuing the positive impact the program makes this year.



MEET MR. TONY JOHNSON, MIDDLE SCHOOL SOCIAL STUDIES, JH FOOTBALL COACH, TRACK COACH

I teach 6th grade World History, 7th grade Geography, and 8th grade U.S. History. I grew up in southeast Minnesota (close to La Crosse, WI...but on the good side of the river!). I graduated and earned my Master's Degree from the University of Minnesota and substituted and coached in that area for a couple years after graduation. After that, I went to South Korea to teach English for a year, an experience that I would not trade for anything. The experience of living as a foreigner has given me a lot of perspective as a Social Studies teacher.

In my spare time, I tend to do a lot of outdoor activities. In the fall and early winter it's hunting, and in the spring and summer it's golf. I also go for a couple big hikes a year. This past summer it was the North Shore of Lake Superior and the Bighorn Mountains. Go figure...a Social Studies teacher that likes an activity that involves reading maps. I also get outside a lot after school, coaching junior high football and track. In the winter...yeah I'm not so much of a cold weather fan. I enjoy the Great Indoors in the winter.

What I like most about teaching is the fact that every day is different and presents different challenges. Obviously I have a ton of interest in the subjects I teach, and finding ways of sharing that enthusiasm and teaching the material is something that I look forward to every day. This being my second year in Garretson, I especially love the fact that I get to have the same students for more than one year.

MIDDLE SCHOOL SCIENCE WITH MRS. JULIE MUELLER

I graduated from Napoleon High School, Napoleon, North Dakota in 1977. I attended what is now known as Bismarck State College in Bismarck, North Dakota. I earned an Associate of Applied Science Degree in Agricultural Business in 1979. In 1982 I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in Agricultural Education with a science minor from South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.



I am currently teaching 6th and 8th grade science as well as 7th grade Agri-Science. Being dual certified, both science and agricultural education, allowed me to propose a plan to our school board and the State Ag-Education office 5 years ago. The plan was accepted and my teaching science standards through agricultural topics allows our 7th grade students to be FFA members. That whole process began at the request of a student who knew I had both degrees. I do hear what students say. Based on middle school FFA numbers, there was a need for this.

So what is my philosophy when it comes to education? I really strive to teach using hands-on activities. WE REMEMBER by Edgar Dale says it best. This is what we retain: 10% of what we read, 20% of what we hear, 30% of what we see, 50% of what we see and hear, 70% of what we discuss with others, 80% of what we personally experience, 95% of what we teach others. I often say to the students "It might look like we are playing in our room today, but we are learning." One of my favorite activities last year followed a simple machines unit. Students were put into teams and asked to incorporate the six simple machines into table top carnival games. I was amazed at the games teams created and very pleased when they shared their results by inviting the first grade in to play the games.

Students in my room learn to work with different personalities as there is a lot of team work going on in the classroom. We also use technology on a daily basis as students work is a Google Classroom and use a number of apps on their iPads.

My web link is <https://mrsmuellersmiddleschoolscience.shutterfly.com> and if you would like to follow what is going on in the science classroom or science fair you can go follow us at <https://www.facebook.com/Garretson-Science-FairMiddle-School-Science-Happenings-138871366173666/>. Agri-Science news and FFA events also can be followed by going to <https://www.facebook.com/Garretson-FFA-204269359603795/>.

I used to think education was a gift, but am more inclined to believe this statement "Education is no gift to be given; it's something you claim for yourself and your family. It is a PRIZE to be hard won. Thank you for the opportunity to work with your student(s) and please encourage them to go after the PRIZE.

MATH HELP WEDNESDAYS BY MR. JASON BOHL, HIGH SCHOOL MATH

Good Day Garretson! I am Jason Bohl and I have been teaching in Garretson for the past twenty-seven years. My wife, Amy, and I live in Garretson where three of our four children have graduated. I am excited to your child's high school math teacher, cross country, wrestling, and track coach. I often tell students that math is very similar to an extra curricular activity. The more you practice, the better you get at it. If your child is needs extra help, I am available almost every morning from 7:30-8:00 and during ICU time. This year, Garretson has also added Math Help Wednesdays, where students can come in for extra help from myself or other peer tutors. We have had great success with the program thus far. If you have any questions for me, my door is always open or feel free to contact me at jason.bohl@k12.sd.us. I am anxious to help our students become better problem solvers and people.

LOOKING AHEAD

November 4 ~ 1:30 Dismissal

Parent/Teacher Conferences 2:30-8:30

Flu Shots 2:30-8:00

Book Fair During Conferences

November 8 ~ NO SCHOOL

November 11 ~ Veterans Program 2:30

November 14 ~ PK-5 Choir & Band Concert 7:00

November 16 ~ 9-12 Fall Ball 8:00-11:00 Legion

November 19 ~ 6-12 Band Concert 7:00

November 25 ~ 6-12 Choir Concert 7:00

November 27-29 ~ Thanksgiving Break

ELEMENTARY ENERGY BUS BY MRS. TERESA HULSCHER, PRINCIPAL, SPECIAL ED DIRECTOR

While walking through the hallways of the Garretson School, you might notice various tickets hanging on the walls with messages like "Destination....Success" or "Positive Passengers Wanted" written on them. They correlate with a book that our staff read at the beginning of the school year, THE ENGERGY BUS by Jon Gordon. The book gives 10 rules to fuel your life, work and team with positive energy. While it only seems obvious that enthusiasm is contagious, we the book taught us that the heart acts as an emotional conductor and radiates how we are feeling to every cell in the body via the hearts' electromagnetic field. This energy can be detected up to 5 to 10 feet away! The heart's electromagnetic field is 5,000 times more powerful than the brain.

Our staff has continued to revisit the book at teacher meetings and the elementary students will all have a lesson with the child version of the Energy Bus book in the upcoming months. As Abe Lincoln stated so very long ago, "I am not bound to win, I am bound to be true. I am not bound to succeed, but I am bound to live up to the light that I have." Staff and students at Garretson School have the energy to succeed and are on the bus - as parents and community members, join us!

MEET MS. JULIE HERSOM, 1ST GRADE TEACHER

I am one of the first grade teachers at Garretson School. I have been a Blue Dragon all my life since I grew up in Garretson. I have two married daughters and six grandchildren. My favorite hobby is going to high school football games to watch my



grandson or my kids here at Garretson. Other hobbies include reading, camping and spending time with my grandkids.

I always knew I would be a teacher - ever since I was young. I used to play school at home with my brothers, when we weren't outside playing. I attended USF and earned my education degree. I taught 4th grade in Irene before moving back home to Garretson. My favorite part of teaching is being with kids and helping them learn. I love the eagerness and the excitement they express each and every day that they are in school!!

MUSIC NOTES BY MRS. ERIKA BROWN, K-12 MUSIC TEACHER

NOW AUDITIONING: Concert Performers and Concert Attendees

Have you ever met these concert performers or attendees?

At the concert we've got **Gertrude the Gossip** and **Tamara the Talker** who spend the entire performance discussing their personal lives. A few rows behind them, there's **Prentice Post-mortem** who must highlight every mistake during the concert with an eye-roll or a deeply disappointed sigh and comments, "Did you hear that wrong note?" or "I wonder who was selected for the solo."

Moving over to the next aisle, we meet **Leroy the Seat-Leaper** and his friend **Horten Half-a-Concert**. At any given moment or even in the middle of a song, **Leroy** could leave his seat to use the bathroom or run down the aisle. **Horten** is notorious for leaving right after his student's performance is done and dismissing himself before the concert is complete.

Among the performers, there are the friends who find ways of joining in the performance even if it is not their turn. These friends include **Hildegard Hum-along**, **Velma Velcro**, and everyone remembers **Winslow WatchBeeper** whose watch is perfectly timed to always beep during the softest song of the concert. (inspired by: *Uninvited Guests at Performances*, by Paul K. Fox, 1990)

All kidding aside, **performers appreciate the faithful support of their community**. We have some excellent young musicians here at Garretson School and they deserve the attention of the audience at their performances. The performance is comparable to a "final exam" for all of the hard work and dedication required to take a song from day 1 in rehearsal to "concert ready." In growing our future, every child, every day, we must harness these moments intentionally and embrace the responsibility of each role--both audience members and performers.

To some degree, we are all music-lovers with curiosity for music in a variety of forms--music streaming services like Spotify and Pandora, radio, and music-video viewing sites allow us to customize each musical experience. As a result, we may have unknowingly developed habits of tuning out things that are not of our preference or disengaging in musical experiences by being inattentive. To enable both the performer and audience member to benefit from their concert experience, a refresher on **concert customs** is beneficial.

Performer Concert Customs

- Arrive on time.
- Dress appropriately and comfortably in concert attire.
- It can be exciting to see your supporters in the audience, but please wait to wave at them and greet them once you are off the stage. Share a smile from the stage!
- Keep your attention focused on your director.
- Save your comments for after your performance.
- Mistakes can happen, but good performers try to keep the audience unaware and continue the performance.
- You've worked hard, give it your best!

Audience Concert Customs

- Arrive on time.
- It will be exciting to see your students on the stage. A smile and your attention are appropriate acknowledgements.
- Be prepared to stay for the entire concert- even if your student performs only a portion of the time. Students are learning from other performers.
- Take care of restroom breaks and getting drinks of water before the concert. If you need to exit for a biological break during a performance, try to exit and enter at appropriate times (in between songs, in between performers).
- All electronic devices should be silenced and put away. Enjoy the moment in the moment.
- Engage in the concert by observing the performance. Reserve comments for after the show.

We all have our part to play. Performers, your role is to present to the audience the music that you have prepared. Audience, your role is to take seriously the pleasure of others as they perform by observing their performance, listening with empathy. May we take seriously the enjoyment of others and find in ourselves the ability to respond to music as both the performer and audience.

FAMILY GAME TIME BY MISS JODI NEUGEBAUER, 2ND GRADE TEACHER

As school gets back into swing, you might find yourself with less time for family game time due to earlier bedtimes, sporting events, and school work. You can play games while you travel in car and to get your homework done. Hopefully a few of these ideas will help you include game time throughout the school year.

Math

- Play Uno, but before you lay the card, you add/subtract the card on the pile and in your hand.
- Yahtzee is a fun way to practice adding using the dice.
- Dominoes can be a quick way to practice math facts while you play. If you want to make it more challenging, you can add more than two numbers by adding all four numbers together. (2+5+6+3)
- War is a great game for more/less. Maybe you can make your own set of cards or use dice and roll larger numbers.

- Farkle is another game that helps you add by 100 and 50 which is great practice for mental math. After you score, you have larger numbers that the score keeper will get to add together.

Reading

- Banana-grams or scrabble is a great way to practice making words.
- Making flashcards with difficult sight words on them is an easy way to include them in a game. Before you take your turn in Checkers, Candyland or any game, you will read a couple words and maybe use them in a sentence.
- It is fun to read a book as a family and then watch the movie when you are done. A couple favorites include Holes, Ramona and Beezus, Charlotte's Web, and Because of Winn Dixie.

Car Games

- While you are driving or getting supper ready you can play verbal games to practice 10 bonds (ways to make 10). If I say 6, you would say 4 as fast as you can. 7,3; 2,8 etc. All ways to get to ten.
- You can practice doubles (3+3, 7+7) while driving or practice values of coins just by saying a coin and having your child tell you the value.
- Playing I Spy is an old favorite, but you could add an additional twist by spying something and instead of asking questions, the person could describe using adjectives until you are able to guess.
- The Alphabet game is always fun with an added twist of rhyming after you find the letter. A is for ant (pant, can't, rant, etc.)

TECH TIPS WITH MR. SCHRANK

Website Athletic Schedules





OCTOBER/NOVEMBER CALENDAR LINK

<http://www.garretson.k12.sd.us/o/garretson/browse/13300>

FROM THE DESK OF THE ACTIVITIES DIRECTOR, KEVIN STECKLER



As we transition from the Fall Sports Season to our Winter Sports Season I want to revisit the topic of Sportsmanship...

While some might think that the practice of good sportsmanship is limited to the athletes and coaches on the field, the fact is that fans play a critical role in sportsmanship. Stop and think about the following sportsmanship tips, because sportsmanship from the stands starts well before the game even begins and goes beyond the game itself.

Before the game, remind your child – and yourself that practicing good sportsmanship is something important, something in which you and your child can take pride, regardless of the outcome of the contest.

During the game, work hard not to be “that dad” or “that mom” who loses their cool. While you think the spotlight is on the field, it’s actually on you in the stands in the eyes of your children. They see and hear all, and during the game is your moment to demonstrate that you walk-the-walk and practice the very same sportsmanship that you ask your kids to show.

After the game, resist the urge to “break down” what you saw. Talk about what was fun about the game, and what did you learn from the game?

Purchasing a ticket to a high school athletic event does not give you the right to be rude, disrespectful or verbally abusive. Cheer loud and be proud of your child, and the Garretson Blue Dragons, but be responsible and respectful.

BREAKFAST/LUNCH MENUS LINK

<https://schools.mealviewer.com/school/GarretsonSchool/print?month=7&year=2019&blockId=1428>





GARRETSON ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOL BOARD

Facebook @GHSBlueDragons

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If you know of anyone not receiving the monthly newsletter and would like to, have them drop me an email... norinda.sandbulte@k12.sd.us