



TITAN TIMES

RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

Two set for Retirement at R-A



Mr. Brent Dyhrkopp will retire from Ruthven-Ayrshire at the end of the 2021-22 school year.

Dyhrkopp started teaching in 1989. He was teaching at Graettinger before coming to R-A where he has taught for six years. He also served as a baseball coach at Okoboji, and a teacher's aide and coach at Spirit Lake.

"I wanted to get back to being a full-time teacher and they gave me the opportunity and I am grateful for it," he said. "I enjoy small schools so it was a good fit. At a small school, you get to know all the students. We have opportunities to make everything good so we can compete with larger schools, especially in sports."

Dyhrkopp brings an end to his work teaching social studies to grades 5-8 and 10-12. That includes geography, civics, world and American history and government. He also coaches junior high football, boys golf, and is assistant coach for high school girls basketball.

"I teach a little bit of life, too. I like teaching all of the subjects. I enjoy the kids most. And, that is probably what everyone says. But a lot of the other stuff in education is not as enjoyable as the kids."

He may have a reputation of laying down the law in his classroom.

"I've been told that I do, but if you don't, then you have

chaos. Whether the students admit it or not, they want someone to tell them what to do. Since they have found out I was planning to retire, they have asked about the future of their class. I have been working to remind them that they have made a choice to behave and they can continue to make that choice. I give them an opportunity where they can behave.

"One example I use is asking them if they are going to have a family and have kids. Most of them say yes, and most say they will not let their kids do whatever they want.

"I am not asking them to do any more than what they will ask of their kids. That is the way it has to be. Someone has to be in charge."

He is married to Carla and they have one son who is married and teaches and coaches in LeMars. He also has two grandchildren.

"I give kids a choice. They don't have to behave, but if they

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MAY 2022

don't there are consequences. Think of the people who are good at anything – they are disciplined.

"When I started, I wasn't any good. I just was lucky enough to have good teachers around me where I picked up things.

"I really don't have any advice for the next person. You can't have someone tell you how to be successful. I don't know anything more than the next guy. There are people way smarter than me in education.

"You have to outlast the kids. People think I'm doing something special, but I'm really not. It's the kids. I used to think I was good at getting kids to work hard. But, it was actually the kids and not me.

"You don't have to have a good teacher to learn. You just have to have the desire to learn."

Dyhrkopp will continue to work part-time at Parks Marina where he does a bit of everything including service calls and repair of docks and hoists. At some point, he hopes to return as a substitute and perhaps continue coaching if there is an opening.



Mr. Chris Myers retires at the end of the school year. He is the elementary principal at Ter- ril and serves as the curriculum coordinator for both G-T and R-A.

He came to the school in 2013, where he left a position as principal at Cedar Rapids. He was also a principal at Sac City from 1999-2006 and had year-long combat deployment to Afghanistan during that time. And before that he was a teacher and coach.

"We went to Cedar Rapids because my

wife's family is in eastern Iowa and the lure of 2A to 4A schools and the salary was big. But, it just was not a good fit for me. I was one of 23 other elementary schools, and there were over 17,000 students. I just felt like a cog in a machine. I specifically looked for a small school. I love the fight of small schools. We have to fight for the right things.

"My opinion is that it is the large schools that drive the legislators to

do things where as small schools are fighting and scrapping for everything they get. I like to hold small schools up against any big school and say, 'we can do what you can do, we just do it with less.'"

Myers also likes the position of a principal and curriculum coordinator as it offers him the chance to influence all three buildings at GTRA. He will miss the kids most, having a big knuckle bump or a hug.

"Kids are fairly accepting. Walking in the door and getting a big hug is what I will miss. I've tried to always do what is best for kids. It's not what's best for adults, it is always doing what is best for the kids."

His wife, Kate, is the Family and Consumer Science Teacher at GTRA and plans to continue working. They live in Graettinger and they have two children. A daughter who lives in Sioux City and works as a school counselor and a son who lives in Sumner where he is a transportation director for the school district. They also have three grandchildren.

After retirement, he plans to enjoy having time to think about other things rather than school. He is a writer and has stories and poetry to write. He would also like to do a podcast geared to the stressed Iowa teacher.

"I think it could have some humor but also talk about serious issues we face in education. I will see if I can put it together. I want to explore my artistic side. I forge knives and I am a beekeeper. I enjoy shooting activities also, so I have plenty of things to do."

His message to others is, "Don't forget you have a life. There are some things I wish I would have taken more time with, like my family. So my advice is to take time for yourself."

Finding educators for open positions is going to be an ongoing problem he believes.

"In the state of Iowa there are 49 high school science positions open. I think there are 12 graduates coming up. It is very tight and half of those positions or more will not have someone to fill that role.

"The legislators are going to have to figure out what we can and should be doing for these positions. When I graduated in 1984, you wanted to get your name out early. Now it is not that competitive. COVID shut down everything and delayed teachers' plans. Some now want to do something else. It has been a hard time for educators.

"The challenge is, how do we fill the teaching roles and make sure we have continuity of instruction. Retaining good teachers is hard, too. We already think outside of the box, and we will need to continue to do that."



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GTRA Welcomes Michelle TeGrootenhuis

Mrs. Michelle TeGrootenhuis has been hired as the principal at G-T Elementary and Curriculum Coordinator for both R-A and G-T.

"This position combines two of my passions: small schools that are the heartbeat of the community and all things curriculum," commented TeGrootenhuis.

"For the past seven years, I have been a K-8 instructional coach ("master teacher") with a literacy focus at the MOC-Floyd Valley Community School District."

Prior to that, she taught for 20 years at Hoppers Elementary, and did a couple of years as an aide and substitute straight out of college. She has also served as a K-5 Literacy Curriculum Specialist for over 20 years, been a part of a 6-12 ELA curriculum team, and leads a few graduate-level courses for Northwestern's online master's degree programs.

Her husband, Scott, works for Zomer RV and Rental and spends a lot of time on the road between Orange City, the Iowa Great Lakes Region

and up into Minnesota and surrounding states selling and servicing campers.

Their daughter, Natalie, is the Director of Groups and Leadership at Embrace, a church in Sioux Falls. She also works many weekends at Swiss Acres, the wedding venue just northwest of Terril.

Their son, Kyle currently works in construction at Ames, but will be relocating to Omaha when his fiancée graduates from ISU in May. They plan to be married in October.

TeGrootenhuis says she has found a home to rent in Terril. "I hope to be moved in by early July, but will be out and about in the communities of Titan Nation throughout June. I am looking forward to attending some softball and baseball games – Go Titans!

"I am most looking forward to serving the students, staff and communities of Titan Nation. I have heard so many comments about the positive school culture, the willingness of staff to step in and step up, and the overall school spirit. I am eager to listen and learn from all stakeholders as I begin," she said.

"Looking ahead to my position as principal and curriculum coordinator, I anticipate that the most rewarding part of my work will be getting to know the students throughout their K-12 education. In my current role, that is one of my greatest joys. I love seeing those shy kindergarteners turn into readers, learners and leaders as they grow through elementary, middle and high school.

TeGrootenhuis looks forward to curriculum changes coming for GTRA.

"I'm looking forward to continuing the work with the new Illustrative Math curriculum. My current district is adopting that same program beginning next year, so I am familiar with it and have completed some of the early training. I have been impressed by how IM promotes true number sense and mathematical thinking at all levels.

"I am also looking forward to the challenge of leading a team to review and adopt a new K-5 literacy curriculum. Both districts are in the perfect spot of recognizing the need for a systematic approach to literacy instruction and are ready to begin reviewing possible resources. My background as a K-8 literacy coach lends itself well to this process and I'm eager to dive right in and get started."

DeGrootenhuis believes that educators have always been eager to share what is going on in their classrooms with parents. If parents want to know about the curriculum or know more about classroom activities, there are several ways for them to learn more.

"Most teachers either publish their own classroom newsletter or contribute to a school publication. We all love to share what's happening in our classrooms. On top of that, there are several opportunities for parents to be involved in their children's schools. From volunteering at various events, to attending school functions, to serving on the school board, parents have access to their public schools. I see several schools already sharing curricula, materials, and lesson plans online. Teachers collaborate, form committees for review, and work hard to align instruction so the K-12 system works together to meet the standards set by the state. Those state standards have been online for anyone to view for years. This kind of transparency has always been welcomed in Iowa schools. We have taken a lot of pride as a state in our public schools, and I look forward to continuing such a rich tradition in the coming years, including open communication with the parents and communities we serve as part of Titan Nation."

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Preventing the Summer Learning Loss for Students

The impact of summer learning loss can be devastating to student achievement. Some studies suggest that some students will go back after the summer break with achievement levels lower than they were at the start of summer break.

Ms. Kim Haburn, middle school language arts instructor says, "Kids (and teachers!) love having summers off, but that time away from the classroom can cause what educators refer to as the 'summer slide.'"

"If students are not actively engaged throughout the summer, it can lead to a decrease in not only reading but also math scores. According to a recent study, kids who were not reading during the summer lost 20 percent of their reading progress from the school year. Although younger children tend to experience more of the summer slide, middle schoolers are not immune to the phenomenon. Renee from the Ruthven Public Library will be coming to talk to the 5th and 6th graders about the summer reading program. I would encourage all kids who are able to participate in it."

Scholastic offers four suggestions to keep kids engaged in reading and math:

- 1) Let kids read what they want.
- 2) Make time for smart play.
- 3) Get out of the house and visit a park or historic site
- 4) Use your imagination through crafting or creating.

Mrs. Katie Cother is the elementary library assistant at R-A. She says one way to maintain good habits over the summer is to simply play games.

"Most games involve reading or even math. Let the kids try and read the directions, read the cards if there are cards involved in the game. Also math, even counting the number of squares or spaces, and rolling the dice.

"STEM activities help with science and keep the mind active. My children love to make new things, and try new recipes. Fractions are used in baking. The best part is they can eat whatever they make when it's done. Use the timer on the stove or take a trip to the zoo or a museum. Not only are these places fun but children and adults can learn new things. Everything we do can be a learning experience, we just need to talk about it with the kids."

Cother suggests helping children find books that match their interests.



Elementary Library Assistant Katie Cother with Captain America.

Popular books for elementary students include:

Unicorn Diaries, *Diary of a Wimpy Kid*, *National Geographic for Kids*, *I Spy* and *Ripley's Believe It or Not*.

Cother says that even picture books help kids to learn because they will ask questions about the pictures.

"Anytime you are driving with your kids is a good time to take a book and have them read to you. Consider having a library day once per week. Remember there is the Little Free Library near the pool, so kids could take a break from swimming and read a book."

She reminds parents that kids have access to EPIC over the summer which is a program that reads books aloud.

Put these suggestions to work in your family so your child is ready for success when returning to class in August.

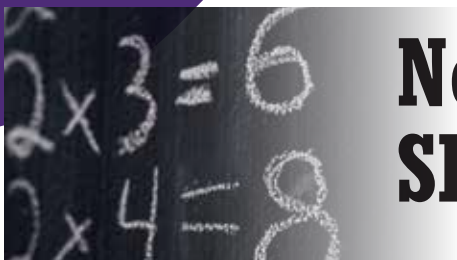


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New Math Curriculum Shows Success at GTRA

At the beginning of the 2021-22 school year, GTRA implemented a new math curriculum, Illustrative Math, in the elementary grades.

Curriculum Coordinator Chris Myers had been evaluating the curriculum for several years.

"I watched it being talked about and being used. It is the only math curriculum that directly points to the standards of the State of Iowa.

"Others say they will meet those, but this is the only one that directly goes to it. I watched it being developed as it was released in beta form, and as it was piloted at different grade levels. During the 2020-21 year, we had it in place at the middle and high school grades.

"I had decided two years ago that this is what we were moving to. It is not always done that way, as sometimes committees are used to determine the curriculum.

"It was a big ask, but we made sure that we put in a lot of professional development so the teachers could learn and understand what needed to be done. We will have more professional development planned for next year. It takes about three years for a new curriculum to become operational with a full understanding."

With Illustrative Math, students consider multiple ways to get to the correct answer.

"It is pretty amazing when you ask the kids and they can lay out three or four ways to solve a math problem. What I have experienced is there are more intelligent conversations between students about numbers than there ever has been. Students are using terminology like 'standard algorithm.' They gain more knowledge. I have seen kids who have had no confidence in math really begin to glow."

For their assignments, the student must show how they came up with the correct answer. Myers says it is their understanding of how they get there that is most important. That knowledge can be applied to other levels of math.

Overall, the math curriculum helps students improve their problem-solving skills.

"It helps with other life problems too, as it helps them look at the considerations before making a decision.

"When they do those considerations, because they can do it a number of ways, they have self-checking abilities. Once they know the methods, they can

check their own answers and that is what we see them doing."

Myers says the students feel more confident about math. The implementation is a little more difficult for older students who have not yet been exposed to this model.

"My expectation is that every year as the students move to the next level and we build on the education, they will get more successful at the different levels of math."

As for the reaction of the teachers, most have started to see the benefits for the students. Myers says there has been much more embracing of it, than not.

Fourth grade teacher Amy Sikora says implementing the curriculum has been quite a bit of work.

"As teachers, we have had to figure out all the components of the lessons, and also how all the materials and games fit into each lesson. It was challenging to fit all the lesson parts in when we started, but that has become much easier," she said.

"The students definitely struggled at first as there were parts to the curriculum that they had never been taught before. The older students had to have some gaps filled in as they learned new material. There was frustration at first, but that has gotten better throughout the year.

"The new curriculum has really taught the students to have deep math discussions. They use thinking and problem-solving skills on a daily basis. They have also become more confident in their math skills and everyone can participate in mathematical thinking. I have also seen them become better at mental math."

Myers agrees, "I think the new curriculum opens up their minds in how to think. We are trying to raise kids for jobs that don't even exist yet. Now, we are trying to engage their thought process.

"Parents need to gain an understanding of the new method. I have experienced parents who see their kids are now less anxious about doing math. We are trying to expand their thought process so they can engage in many other problem-solving activities. There are very few things where there is only one way to do something.

"There may be two or three different ways for a student to find an answer to a math problem. We just needed to say it is okay for them to talk and share about how they got to the answer."

According to Myers, there are quite a few schools in the state who have adopted this curriculum, although not everyone is sold on it.

"This should carry over to science and social studies as they are inquiry based, which is what we are talking about with Illustrative Math. Math homework now says, 'Find the value of the expression and explain your reasoning.' Before, we just had 25 problems and said find the answer. Now we have different terminology. The key thing is to explain the reasoning as to how they got the answer.

"We shouldn't be giving kids 25 math problems anymore. If they can take five representative problems and get it done with an explanation, why else do we need them to go through that. Homework should show the teacher that they understand how to do it."

Saluting the Class of 2022



Commencement Exercises

Sunday, May 15, 2022 - 2:30 p.m.

Ruthven-Ayrshire Gymnasium

Class Colors: Maroon, Black and Silver

Class Flower: Rose

Libbi Gentry

Parents: Ken and Rolanda Fiesler

Siblings:

One thing I will always remember:
Chanhassen Trip!

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Keep artifacts for your Titan JAM!

Future Plans: Cosmetology



Paishie Haywood

Parents: Matthew Haywood & Brianna Sanculi

Siblings: Adyson and Sophie Haywood, Alejandro Guerra

One thing I will always remember:
Do what Dyrhkopp would do.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Don't take yourself or others too seriously.

Future Plans: I will attend ILCC to acquire an AA Degree.



Patrick Hazelett

Parents: Hugh & Lori Hazelett

Siblings: Jesse Sloan, Stephanie Guthrie, Ryan Hazelett, Hughie Hazelett

One thing I will always remember:
Having class with Mrs. Kirk, she always made my day and made me laugh. And, Mr. Dyrhkopp always giving me a hard time.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Do your work. Hard work pays off in the future.

Future Plans: ILCC/Workforce



Chloe Jones

Parents: Jon and Amber Jones

Siblings: Jacob

One thing I will always remember:
When the boys climbed the buffalo for the senior picture.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Don't be scared to ask for help when you need it.

Future Plans: Get my RN at NCC in Sheldon and then get my BSN and ARNP.



Class Officers:

President: Adam Sikora
Vice President: Mackenzie Schnetzer
Secretary: Paislie Haywood
Treasurer: Blake Rosacker

Class Motto:

“Go into the world and do well, but more importantly, go into the world and do good.” – Minor Myers Jr.

Blake Rosacker

Parents: Aaron & Monica Rosacker
Siblings: Brady and Bryce

One thing I will always remember:
Making the second round playoffs in football.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Get your work done.

Future Plans: Attend ILCC in the construction technology program.



Brody Simington

Parents: Kim and Nichole Simington
Siblings: Brandon and Brock

One thing I will always remember:
Memories with friends.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Dedicate yourself to sports early if you like them. It will be worth it.

Future Plans: Get a job in the HVAC field.



Mackenzie Schnetzer

Parents: Dan and Michelle Schnetzer
Siblings: TJ, Madison, Embry

One thing I will always remember:
In middle school math class we didn't have a substitute teacher one day, so we didn't tell anybody and tried to write a fake note from the 'substitute' while we had free time.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Personal hygiene is a must.

Future Plans: Attend ILCC for Environmental Studies and become a game warden.



Josilyn Steffen

Parents: Adam and Jenny Steffen
Siblings: Elijah (Eli) and Myra

One thing I will always remember:
The bus ride up to the buffalo when we went to take our senior class photo.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Don't compare yourself to others and don't be scared to ask or answer questions.

Future Plans: Attending NICC for Radio-logic Technology.



Adam Sikora

Parents: Mike and Amy Sikora
Siblings: Joel

One thing I will always remember:
Discussing politics with Mr. Dyhrkopp

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Try as many extracurricular activities and electives as you can, and try not to be completely horrible people.

Future Plans: I plan to attend UNI for Political Science



Gray Triggs

Parents: Shawn Triggs & Amanda Beggs
Siblings: Kane Triggs

One thing I will always remember:
How hard Junior year was.

What advice do you have for incoming freshmen? Try to think before feeling.

Future Plans: Mental health social worker or a veterinarian.



Making Education Work for Everyone

Like any public school, Ruthven-Ayrshire works hard to implement support and learning strategies to meet the needs of all students, regardless of physical or learning challenges.

Special education instructors include Mr. Paul Jorgensen, Mrs. Brandie Malm, Mr. Geoff Maurer, and Ms. Mary Smith.

Mrs. Malm says teachers have noticed that students are two years behind because of the lack of socialization during COVID. For example, first graders are really just having their first “normal” year of school.

“I think it can be hard. I have taught since 2003 and things are just so different now. We need to give students a bit of grace and give them time to catch up.

“Part of my job includes advocating for students and making sure that their accommodations are being met and supported.”

There are specific programs for students who could benefit from extra support.

Malm works with students who have math, reading and behavioral challenges. Students qualify for special education through an educational evaluation called MTSS (multi-tiered system of supports).

It’s a framework used to give targeted support to struggling students. Tier 1: The whole class. All students in the general education classroom are in this tier.

Tier 2: Small group interventions. Students in Tier 2 still attend Tier 1 lessons with the rest of the class. And they get more targeted support through small group lessons, often called interventions. Most students find success with these interventions.

Tier 3: Intensive individualized support. This tier can mean small group work or individual lessons often done with a special education program/teacher.

Students who are identified as at risk of not meeting educational benchmarks will participate with a student support team.

For students who need reading support, staff uses a reading curriculum called S.P.I.R.E. It is a comprehensive, multi-sensory and systematic reading and language arts program designed for struggling readers. It is the only program of its kind beginning at the pre-K level and extending all the way through Grade 8. S.P.I.R.E. incorporates the most recent research regarding best practices in reading and language arts instruction to help struggling readers excel. SPIRE provides direct instruction in phonics, decoding, reading comprehension, spelling, vocabulary and written language skills.

“This program is really amazing. We have seen much success in this program,” said Malm.

For a math curriculum, she uses The Georgia Numeracy Project. It is focused on developing students’ understanding of numbers, and their ability to use numbers to solve problems. Students may solve number problems by counting, adding, subtracting, multiplying, dividing, or any combinations of these operations. Students develop strategies that support their use of these operations in real-world and mathematical problems.

“We have seen where kids have learned two years of math in one year. This is also an amazing program and this is the second year for it.”

In working with behavior goals, she will use modeling, role playing and even play therapy depending on the student needs.



The multi-tiered system of supports has three levels.

“We talk about difficult situations, actions and consequences. Then we talk about alternatives that can be done instead.”

Malm encourages parents to advocate for their child and to ask questions. Parents are the experts on their kids and they can keep up with how their students are doing at meeting their goals. Modeling reading and reading to kids is a great way to support kids of all ages. She encourages parents to talk to kids about their school day by asking specific questions.

“Simply having conversations with kids helps them to develop their skills.”

The Prairie Lakes Area Education Agency (AEA) provides support for the school through consultants. Specialized consultants work in reading, math, speech pathology, special education, and psychology.

The Iowa Legislature created the Agencies in 1974 to be an effective, efficient and economical way of identifying and serving children who require special education services. There are nine AEAs across the state.

“They are an email away for us,” said Malm. “And they make sure that the students are getting the assistance that is needed.”

“When it comes to learning challenges we have to remember that not everyone is the same,” said Malm. “We all need different supports. We may be good in one thing but need support with something else.”

Regardless of the type of support needed, R-A students can benefit from a broad scope of educational tools provided by a supportive team of educators.



Extend Your World by Hosting a Foreign Exchange Student

Families who host foreign exchange students usually find that their world becomes a little bigger. Janet and Dick Dillard of Dickens have been regional coordinators for seven years. They are part of the EF (Education First) High School Exchange Program.

"We have a team of IEC's that are all part of Team Dillard, and we all work to find host families on the west side of Iowa about from I35 to all the state borders," explained Janet.

"We have a team of 14 and we are always looking for host families and in some areas we need International Exchange Coordinators (IECs) also. Everyone on our team loves to share their passion of EF and Cultural Education."

EF High School Exchange Year is only a small part of EF. There are many other parts including Au Pair and EF Language Schools to name just a couple. EF High School Exchange Year is a non profit branch of EF.

The Dillards first got involved when they were hosts nearly 20 years ago. They worked as IECs before becoming regional coordinators.

Dillard says there are many reasons for a family to consider becoming a host to a foreign exchange student.

"What a wonderful way to share your America one child at a time. If you ever wanted to travel to Spain, Italy, Germany or Sweden – why not bring Spain to your home for a year and learn from a student while you share your family and community with that student.

"Who knows – you might find yourself traveling to Spain to meet that student's family or attend their wedding in the years to come," said Dillard.

"Our students come from Sweden, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Germany, Norway, Netherlands, Tai-

wan, Thailand, Japan, France, South Korea, Denmark and Austria."

Host families are asked to provide room and board for the student while they are in the U.S. Students come with their own spending money so they pay for their own meals eaten outside the home, personal care items, entertainment, etc. The students are here to attend an American high school and be part of an American family. Families are not required to travel while the students are in their home, however, should they take a trip, the student pays for their own way.

"Each country has their own office and fees that it entails to come to the U.S. EF is the best Exchange program in the world and we work closely with the U.S. State Department to set up the guidelines for high school exchange programs."

Dillard says there are many benefits to being a host family.

"We have added so many amazing families to our family from all over the world. When the exchange ends, your relationships never end. We will forever have the Aline's from Switzerland, Toby's and Pia's from Germany, Juan & Diana from Columbia, Micka from Finland, Tom from Slovakia, Daniella from Brazil to name just a few.

"We learn as much from the students about the big world around us as they learn from us about Iowa and the U.S. Even after hosting for years, every single student is a person with a different personality, different knowledge, from a different part of the world. Just like the U.S., there are many different parts to every country around the world. It never gets old, that is for sure. We also have gotten to travel all over the world to see our students and meet their extended family."

She believes exchange students learn about Iowa kindness. "Here people open the door for each other, they smile at a stranger, and welcome others with open arms. Iowa kind is something that only people that have been to Iowa or live here know about. It is all part of our make-up I think. Students also learn about hard working farmers, the stunning sunsets we enjoy and teenagers driving everywhere."

Kelly and Larry Upton of Ruthven hosted a student from Denmark about five years ago. "We decided to do it because we had always been foster parents and this was a way to help someone. Magnus stayed with us about a year. He touched our lives in so many ways. He has returned to visit and even brought his fiancée. For us it was a wonderful experience. We treated him just like our own and he responded well," said Kelly Upton.

David and Jill Conlon of Ruthven hosted Linus Albrecht from Germany during the 2015-16 school year.

"He was the same age as our oldest son, Jacob, at the time," said Jill Conlon.

"We picked him up in Sioux Falls August 1 as he wanted to participate in football and camp started that next week. He fit into our family right away, and asked to call me 'Mom' on his second day here. Our kids became his brothers and sisters, too. He was very outgoing and wanted to experience everything American inside and outside of school.

"His Mom says that he had his heart set on an exchange year in America and took it upon himself to research and fill out all the paperwork needed to come. He took advantage of his time here and besides his regular school schedule, participated in football, track, wrestling, trap shooting, and theatre. He made so many lifelong friends through school. He learned he really loved helping out on the family farm and especially driving the big equipment. He was always ready to hop in the driver's seat of any vehicle.

"It really was a great year for everyone. His parents came for a visit at the end of the school year and it was fun to meet them in person. Linus has been back to the U.S. twice since then to visit and plans to

CONTINUED ON PAGE TEN ►

come again in August of this year. He has applied and been accepted to study abroad for a semester this fall at the University of Connecticut in Hartford. We are super excited for him to experience college life in the United States. Someday we hope to visit him and his family in Germany. We will always consider him our "son," she concluded.

Additional families hosting students attending R-A have included: David and Stefanie Kirk hosted David from Sweden; Lisa and Gary Reiman hosted Jannik from Germany and Anton from Austria. Janet and Dick hosted Juan from Colombia and Mattao from Italy who also attended school at R-A.

"EF does not have a school year exchange for American students to go over seas. However, there are language camps that are similar. Students live in a family home or a dorm and attend a language school. They are also immersed into the community by living there for a few months. We have Discovery Tours which many schools use for school trips. Many American students do their exchange semester or year while in college with a sister college over seas," explained Dillard.

"We have a welcome orientation at the Clay County Fair and prior to COVID, we had Christmas parties and farewell parties. Each IEC also does things throughout the year with just their group of students."

EF Exchange Year typically hosts 3,000 students annually. In 2021-22, Dillard and her team placed 64 students.

Anyone wanting to learn more about the exchange program can contact the Dillards at 712-260-9018.



It won't be long and these hallways will be empty. The last day of school is Tuesday, May 24. The 2022-23 school year begins August 23.



Sea Adventure

Word Search Puzzle

Y D S G M T F I S H I N G R
O B T X I S S S A N D J Y T
X J E X P T R Y S V P Y B T
J A E K Q A G O O G I Y V I
A S R W H R A N C H O R L C
D U I A I Y G M B F T I S K
V M N V O K U T O P A I C E
E M G E C S F B E S G V O T
N E W U E Y H L Y N M D M S
T R H R A N A I I S S P P V
U Q E N N H U L P K F K A E
R B E D W E I A X F N P S Q
E B L S T A R F I S H U S I
W K L M S W V M A R I N E V

ADVENTURE	SHIP	SAND	SUMMER
COMPASS	WAVE	OCEAN	TICKETS
FISHING	ANCHOR	STEERING WHEEL	SAILING
MARINE	SAIL	STARFISH	WHALE



Bing Bars

2 c. sugar
2/3 c. evaporated milk
Dash salt
1/4 c. butter
12 large marshmallows OR 1-3/4 c. mini marshmallows
3/4 c. cherry chips
1 t. vanilla
1 (12 oz.) pkg. chocolate chips
3/4 c. chunky peanut butter
1 (12 oz.) pkg. salted peanuts, crushed

Combine sugar, evaporated milk, salt, butter and marshmallows. Boil 5 minutes over medium heat. Remove from heat and add cherry chips and vanilla. Melt chocolate chips in double boiler, add peanut butter and crushed peanuts. Pour half of chocolate mixture in 9x13-inch pan. Pour cherry mixture on top. Then pour on rest of chocolate mixture. Chill and cut into squares.

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The Ruthven School in 1889



This building was erected in 1884. The photo was taken in 1889.

Ruthven Appeal, March 11, 1899

Ruthven can today present to the world a creditable array of business enterprises and at the same time hold out to prospective investors and business ventures alluring proposition.

The church and school stand side by side in the up-building of this beautiful land of ours.

Ruthven has one of the finest school buildings in the state. It is built of pressed brick and is a substantial and beautiful structure. There are six departments under the supervision of seven efficient instructors. They are: High school, C. G. Wilcox, principal,

SCHOOL DAYS GONE BY

Miss Delia Gregg, assistant; grammar department, Miss Mary Washington; second intermediate, Miss Emily Washington; first intermediate, Miss May Shartle; second primary department, Miss Inez Cornwall. The officers of the school board are as follows: President Alex. Ruthven; secretary W. C. Hastings; directors H.D. Remington, J. Monk and O.O. Helgen. With these instructors and carefully organized grades, Ruthven school stands well in the front.

DATES AND TIMES

Monday, May 9

4:30 p.m.: Track Varsity CO-ED vs Sioux Central (Away)
7 p.m.: R-A 5-8 Band/Vocal

Tuesday, May 10

4:30 p.m.: Track JH CO-ED vs Newell-Fonda (Away)
7 p.m.: R-A PK-4 Concert

Wednesday, May 11

9 a.m.: Golf JV/V Sectional/District vs TBA (Away)
2:30 p.m.: Early Out/PD

7 p.m.: R-A Senior Awards

Thursday, May 12

4 p.m.: Track Varsity Sectional/District vs TBA (Away)

Friday, May 13

9 a.m.: Golf JV/V Regional vs TBA (Away)
4 p.m.: Track JH vs. Multiple Schools (Away)

Sunday, May 15

1 p.m.: G-T Graduation
2:30 p.m. R-A Graduation

Monday, May 16

5 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Central Lyon (Home)

Tuesday, May 17

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs North Iowa (Home)
6 p.m.: R-A Board Meeting

Wednesday, May 18

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (Away)

Monday, May 23

5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (Home)

Tuesday, May 24

4th Quarter/2nd Semester End
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Harris Lake Park (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Harris Lake Park (Away)

Wednesday, May 25

8 a.m.: Professional Development
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Okoboji (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Estherville Lincoln Central (Away)

Thursday, May 26

5 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Sibley-Ocheyedan (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Sibley-Ocheyedan (Home)

Friday, May 27

5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Alta-Aurelia (Home)

Tuesday, May 31

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs North Union (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs North Union (Away)

Wednesday, June 1

4:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs South Central Calhoun (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs South Central Calhoun (Away)

Thursday, June 2

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Spirit Lake (Away)

Friday, June 3

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Emmetsburg (Home)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Emmetsburg (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Pocahontas Area (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Pocahontas Area (Home)

Saturday, June 4

9 a.m.: Softball JV/V Tournament vs Multiple Schools (Home)

Monday, June 6

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Pocahontas Area (H)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Pocahontas Area (H)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Sioux Central (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Sioux Central (Away)

Tuesday, June 7

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs WB-M (Away)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs WB-M (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Estherville Lincoln Central (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Okoboji (Home)

Wednesday, June 8

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs East Sac County (Home)
5:30 p.m. Softball JV/V vs East Sac County (Home)

Thursday, June 9

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Newell-Fonda (Away)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Newell-Fonda (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Remsen St. Mary's (Away)

Friday, June 10

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs MNW (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs MNW (Away)

Saturday, June 11

10 a.m.: Softball JV/V Tournament vs Emmetsburg (Away)

Monday, June 13

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs St. Mary's (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs St. Mary's (Home)

Wednesday, June 15

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs West Bend - Mallard (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs West Bend - Mallard (Away)

Thursday, June 16

5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Newell-Fonda (Home)

Friday, June 17

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Pocahontas Area (A)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Pocahontas Area (A)
5 p.m.: Softball JV/V Double Header vs St. Edmond (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Newell-Fonda (Home)

Monday, June 20

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Emmetsburg (Away)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Emmetsburg (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Emmetsburg (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Emmetsburg (Away)

Tuesday, June 21

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs WB-M (Home)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs WB-M (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Storm Lake (Away)

Wednesday, June 22

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Southeast Valley (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Southeast Valley (Home)

Thursday, June 23

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs Alta-Aurelia (Away)

Friday, June 24

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Sioux Central (Away)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Sioux Central (Away)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Alta-Aurelia (Away)

Saturday, June 25

Softball JV/V Tournament vs Okoboji (Away)

Monday, June 27

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs West Bend - Mallard (Home)

Tuesday, June 28

10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Newell-Fonda (Home)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Newell-Fonda (Home)
5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Hartley-Melvin-Sanborn (Away)

Wednesday, June 29

5:30 p.m.: Baseball JV/V vs South O'Brien (Home)

Thursday, June 30

5:30 p.m.: Softball JV/V vs Sioux Central (Home)

Friday, July 1

Softball: JV/V Regional vs TBA (Away)
10 a.m.: Baseball JH Double Header vs Sioux Central (Home)
10 a.m.: Softball JH Double Header vs Sioux Central (Home)

Saturday, July 2

Baseball JV/V District vs TBA (Away)

Monday, August 22, 2022

5:30 p.m.: Volleyball JV/V vs Multiple Schools (Home)

Thursday, August 25, 2022

5 p.m.: Volleyball JV/V vs. Multiple Schools (Away)

All activities subject to change.
Spectator guidelines vary
by location. Please view our
website for updates.



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1953 Graduate Bill Whiting Ready to Hit the Field in 2022

Bill Whiting graduated from Ruthven in 1953 in a class of 33 students. During school he developed a love for sports and was active in baseball, basketball and football.

"There was a town team after WWII and there was an enclosed park where the current fields are," said Whiting. "That really got me interested in the sport. We had really excellent teams and went to state twice. That was my first love."

Following high school he attended UNI, playing baseball there. He taught school at Carnavillo and Lake Park before returning to Ruthven where he taught for 14 years. He finished his teaching career with 17 years at Milford.

"I enjoyed everything. I enjoyed classroom teaching, but I wanted to coach whatever was on the board.

"When I was in school, I loved my teachers. Ruthven was a good community. When you went to a ballgame, you knew everybody. When there was a game, the entire community showed up. It was a nice school environment. When alumni come back, they have good stories about what happened in school."

He has been married to Sharon for 65 years. They have four children: Linda, Brian, Brooke and Steve. They have 11 grandchildren and 7 great-grandchildren.

Whiting is a registered umpire for football, basketball, softball and baseball in the state of Iowa and he is looking forward to returning to

the field this summer to umpire baseball.

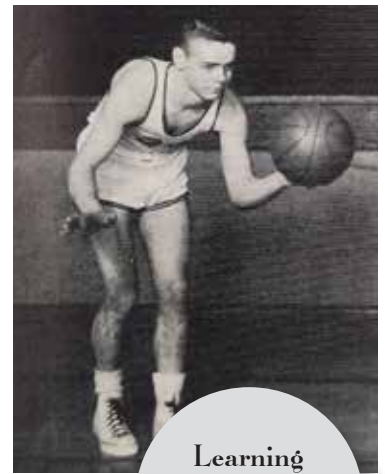
"I love doing it and it helps me stay active. I will keep doing it until they throw me out.

"It is a little demanding. Like any job you do, the longer you do it the easier it gets. I think the big thing about officiating is communicating well with the coaches and players in the pre-

game and let them know what you expect."

Whiting would recommend Ruthven-Ayrshire for those new to teaching. "It is a nice facility and has always had good teachers. It is also a good community.

"We have loved the community. We now live in Spirit Lake, but we go to church in Ruthven and we often eat at Bully's. And, when I go hunting or fishing, I come back to the area."



Bill Whiting
as a basketball player
for Ruthven
in 1953.

**Learning
Today for
Living
Tomorrow**

Newsletter published by the Ruthven-Ayrshire Community School District. Articles and photos by Connie J. Reinert, Beyond Broken, unless otherwise noted.

RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL
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