

# 

RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL DISTRICT

# Curriculum Changes Address Future Needs

GTRA has implemented curriculum updates over the last few years and this year will see additional changes. Elementary grades will implement a new literacy curriculum that focuses on improved fluency. Elementary grades will also implement new Computer Science education while all grades will move into year three of the math curriculum.

The Computer Science curriculum will fit the standards that were developed by the Computer Science Teachers Association and approved by the Iowa State Board of Education.

According to the Department of Education, "Computer Science is understanding how and why technologies work, exploring whether and how technology could solve real-life problems, investigating procedures, creating solutions, and learning about computing systems, programming, data, networks and the effects on society and the individual. Computer Science is learning how to create new technologies rather than simply using them."

Mrs. Michelle TeGrootenhuis, GTRA Curriculum Coordinator, says the new computer science curriculum will be implemented in grades K-5 this school year. Higher grades have already added the new curriculum in previous years. The comprehensive concepts include: computing systems, networks and the internet, data and analysis, algorithms and programming, and impacts of computing.

"The lessons will be integrated mainly with science courses," said Mrs. TeGrootenhuis. "Our teachers have already done two



lessons last spring and we will do what we can to integrate it in with classes we already have."

Some of the lessons are unplugged, meaning they don't require a computer or technology. The activities can teach young students to think through processes and algorithms.

A tech integrationist consultant has been on board to work with staff on how to implement the required training. The assistance was funded with a computer science grant of about \$50,000. The consultant has provided many tools for the staff to use in implementing the new lessons.

"The state sets the dates to meet the computer science standards. We know this is just our first full year, so we understand we are on the path to meeting the standards. Each teacher will do at least one dedicated computer science lesson each quarter at a minimum. As an example, we have robotic Legos for programming. For kindergarten we have a programmable train set. This is computational thinking that we can also incorporate into science and math," she said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE TWO



#### IN THIS ISSUE:

11110 10001	
School building gets a face lift	Page
Meet the new staff at R-A	Page 4
Calendar of events	Page 6
R-A Grad takes the helm at Ruthven Community Care	e CenterPage 9

#### CURRICULUM CONTINUED FROM PAGE I >

The reaction of students has been great. "The students love the coding lessons. Anytime we say we are going to get on Scratch they light up. They love it because they are in charge."

Scratch is the largest coding community for children and a coding language that has a simple visual interface for students to create stories, games and animations.

The staff has also embraced the new curriculum. Along with the assistance from the tech integrationist, there is access to professional development from BootUp. They provide training on coding that the teachers appreciated and there was training last year where they could use a program first as a student and then use the lesson plans.

The problem solving skills that go along with coding are important for jobs now and in the future. "Al (artificial intelligence) will be able to do a lot for us, but we will need to understand problem solving to work with Al," she explained. "And, who is doing the trouble-shooting when it doesn't work correctly. We need people who can think and solve problems and what we are asking kids to do is just that. Think, plan, execute, review, figure out what's not working, debug, try again, make it better, all of those things are taught through these lessons. It also stresses collaborative efforts by working with other students."

Mrs. TeGrootenhuis hopes that parents will be able to view lessons for their students to see what they have created with their coding projects. "I hope they take pride in what their kids are learning to do because it is really impressive. It may look a little cheesy, but it is coding."

#### **Literacy Curriculum**

Staff members researched new literacy curriculum last year and started training last spring during professional development sessions. All of the teachers have done professional development over the summer and all did a full day of phonics training. There will be another day of core reading training.

"Everyone is excited about it. We had representatives from every grade level in selecting the curriculum which was good. Elementary wise there won't be a lot of homework other than to encourage reading every night. We have books now that are what we call decodable text. They should know how to break down the sounds of the words. That is different from what we have done in the last 10-15 years which has been predictable text. Spelling lists will follow phonetic patterns or by prefix, suffix, roots, etc.

"Kids who struggle with reading, writing or spelling are not hearing all the sounds. We need to get kids to hear it first and that happens when they can break down the sound of the words. Parents should make sure their kids are hearing the syllable first and then the individual sounds."

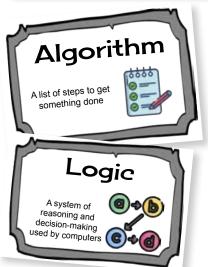
#### **Illustrative Math Curriculum**

The Illustrative Math curriculum was implemented in the middle and high school grades during the 2020-21 school year and the elementary grades were added at the start of the 2021-22 school year.

The first day of the 2023-24 school year is Wednesday, August 23. The day will begin with the traditional Opening Day exercises including the flag-raising ceremony at 8:30 a.m.

The ceremony will be in front of the school. In the case of inclement weather, the exercises will be held in the school gymnasium.

The ceremony will start with the Presentation of the American Flag by the American Legion and the Presentation of the lowa Flag by the Legion Auxiliary. The flags will be raised by students with the National Anthem and Pledge of Allegiance. The ceremony will close with dismissal by Mr. Lewis and the school song.



Words like Algorithm and Logic will be introduced in kindergarten and reinforced in later grades. They will be mastered by 4th grade.

"I am really excited by what we see. We are really starting to see growth when it comes to proficiency. We need to trust in the process," she said. "This growth will continue to go up as the students have the repetition and consistency from year-to-year."

Illustrative math allows students to consider multiple ways to get the correct answer.

"This curriculum forces kids to actually think mathematically and not just memorize. Then they are able to explain the reasoning. There are lots of ways to solve a problem, but we are always focused on moving to efficiency. Again, it comes down to creating thinkers and problem-solvers."

Science and social studies will be on deck for the next curriculum change.





#### Before and After

# School Building Gets A Face Lift

ver the summer, the R-A School Building underwent exterior renovation and improvements. With a budget of \$398,700, the work included tuckpointing and painting.

According to Superintendent Marshall Lewis, the work was needed due to the age of the building causing weathering and cracks creating leaks. A goal was also to enhance the appearance. He said the board was interested in a bold design and looked at several concepts that developed a unique look to match the structure.

CMBA staff say the tuckpointing will reduce the amount of water that is able to find its way to the interior and to prolong the lifespan of the masonry. They would expect the lifespan of the work to be 25-30 years.

The paint will bring new life to the appearance of the building and is expected to last 15 years. The building had 23,750 sq. ft. of paintable surface and used 35-50 gallons of primer and 150-175 gallons of finish paint.

In 1944, the school structure was destroyed in a fire except for the gymnasium. In 1945, a \$110,000 bond was used to build a new school that opened in January 1948. The building also had remodeling in 1983.

Architect Jocelyn Lang said, "The design that was chosen really sought to play to the strengths the building already held, which was a strong sense of rhythm in the horizontal striping, and large focal points created by the existing infill of concrete masonry units around windows. We think the design sets an image for R-A – an image that says, 'We are proud of who we are, we respect and learn from our past (in respecting the existing characteristics of the building), and we are excited to go boldly towards the future!'

"As far as style of the design is concerned, we are seeing many schools opting to incorporate bright colors into their design, to welcome students into a fun, yet challenging place. Additionally, many commercial buildings are using color to positively affect visitors by appealing to our senses and emotions.

"We are excited to help brand Ruthven-Ayrshire with a bold image that celebrates their school pride!"

CMBA of Spencer was the architect/design firm and Woodruff Construction was the general contractor.











## Serving Ruthven, Graettinger & Wallingford

- ▶ Telephone
- ▶ Internet
- ▶ Smart Home
- ▶ Smart Farm
- Cable TV
- ▶ TV Everywhere

River Valley

Find us where you are:



712-859-3300 or 712-837-5522 www.rvtc.net

## Meet the New Staff at R-A

#### **RANDAL OLSON**

**Position:** MS Language Arts/Reading

**Experience:** I have been a teacher for 27 years. **Education:** I graduated from Mason City High School. I received my Associate Arts Degree from Iowa Lakes Community College. I graduated from University of Northern Iowa with a Bachelor's Degree in Elementary Education with minors in Language Arts and in Reading. I have since earned my certification in English Language Learners, K-12 Special Education, and K-12 Computer Science.



Lives in: Emmetsburg

**Family:** I have two children Bryar and Gabriel. Bryar currently lives with me, she is either going to go back to college or find a job. Gabriel has finished college and lives in Des Moines. He is married and he works for the Head-Start program in a school. His wife is an X-ray technician at a clinic. I have a dog named Kenji. He is one year old and a handful.

**Making the choice for R-A:** I enjoy teaching because I get to be a part of students' journey as they discover and understand the world around them. I have the opportunity to make a positive impact on students' lives. It is rewarding to see students' improvement over time and see them overcome challenges and achieve their goals. I enjoy making connections with students to understand their unique personalities. I value encouraging students to be curious and explore the world.

**Tricks of the Trade:** First, I get to know the students to connect learning experiences with their interests. I develop a classroom community that is built upon trust and respect. I build classroom routines and explain expectations so that students have the structure they need to be successful. I model and teach reading by encouraging students to actively engage with the text by asking questions, making predictions, and connecting the material to their own experiences. I give students opportunities to work with others in partnerships and small groups to give them time to share their ideas and strengthen peer collaboration. Most importantly, I remain flexible and give students opportunities to guide their own learning.

One thing you will tell students as part of your introduction: I will share with them some of my personal journey as a student. When I was a student, I had a great curiosity about the world, but I didn't have many opportunities to follow my interests at school. I found that reading and talking to others about what I read had a very positive impact on me. I discovered that I could follow my interests by learning to understand what I read.

#### **SARA PUHL**

**Position:** Kindergarten

Teacher

**Experience:** This will be my seventh year of teaching

Education: In Fall 2016, I graduated from UNI with my Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education and a minor in Literary Education (endorsements in K-8 Read-



**Lives in:** Estherville

**Family:** I have my husband Nathan. We just got married in June! I'm excited for my first year teaching as "Mrs. Puhl!"

Making the choice for R-A: The shared district Ruthven-Ayrshire is part of, GTRA, holds great significance for both myself and my husband. Nathan is considered "the voice of the Titans" with his job at KILR Radio 95.9 as a sports broadcaster covering CTRA games. My husband and his KILR colleagues have also collaborated with GTRA on numerous projects. My 1st student teaching placement was within the GTRA district: I student taught in 3rd grade with Mrs. Schnell at Terril. To now be an employee of the shared district I student taught at has brought my teaching journey full circle. I also have a strong appreciation and support for rural school districts, as I have been fortunate to work for several great rural schools. I love seeing the support from the community for Titan Nation. I look forward to giving back to the district by sharing my expertise and ideas with my colleagues, students, families, and the community.

**Enjoys most:** It feels incredible when a student has that "lightbulb" moment and truly understands something. It feels even better when I witness students who have mastered skills take initiative and help their peers.

One thing you will tell students as part of your introduction? My purpose for being here is to not only help students to learn, but also to help students grow and realize their full potential as contributing leaders of our school and community. There's a leader in everyone.





#### **EZRA MEYER**

Position: Fourth Grade Teacher

**Experience:** First year. **Education:** Northwestern College

Making the choice for R-A: I found R-A to be an excellent school and community for me to begin my teaching career.

**Enjoys most:** To create

relationships with my students and help them become the best version of themselves both in and out of the classroom setting.

Tricks of the Trade: As a fourth grade teacher, I will be teaching a variety of different subjects during the day. One method that I have found to be quite helpful is implementing student collaboration. From my own experience, discussing opinions and solutions in class is very helpful when attempting to grasp new concepts. Furthermore, as this fall marks my first year as a teacher, I will also be learning from my co-workers and students!

One thing you will tell students as part of your introduction: I will tell my students about my family.

#### SARA VYTLACIL

Position: MS/HS Social Studies Teacher

**Experience:** Six years of teaching experience in 5th-12th Social Studies, with experience in teaching AP and IB courses. I also have taught Adult Education English as a Second Language.

Education: B.S. in Secondary Education Social Studies and Masters in Economics.

Lives in: Everly

Family: My family and I moved here about a year and a half ago from Nebraska. We live on a small acreage with our three dogs and many farm animals.

Making the choice for R-A: I enjoy working at smaller school districts. I feel it gives me the opportunity to know my students and build better connections with them. I also enjoy teaching different contents and age levels, it gives me new challenges throughout the day that opens my mind to new ways of teaching.

**Enjoys most:** I really enjoy learning about their goals and seeing them grow throughout the school year.

Tricks of the Trade: I really like doing hands on or simulation activities. I feel it helps students to better understand concepts in Social Studies. Primary sources are a big part of how I incorporate content into my lessons.

One thing you will tell students as part of your **introduction?** That your mind is your only limit. You can do and accomplish anything you set your mind too.

#### **SARAH STILLMAN**

**Position:** Administrative Assistant

**Experience:** I have over a decade of adventurous journeys in the corporate world, exploring the wilds of customer service, navigating the financial savanna as a relationship manager for seven years. and then embarking on an exciting expedition into the realm of government finance, where I bravely ventured through diverse territories in accounts receivable.



**Education:** I hold a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with an emphasis in Accounting from Black Hills State University in Spearfish, South Dakota.

**Lives in:** Currently, I'm enjoying the generous hospitality of my in-laws' basement in Emmetsburg while eagerly awaiting the closing of our new home in Ruthven.

**Family:** I've been married to my husband, Ryan, for 8 years in December. We're proud parents of a little boy named Finn, who brings immense joy to our lives. Ryan is a dedicated nurse in Spencer. When we're not busy with work and commuting, you can most likely find us exploring our new home and creating beautiful memories together.

**Making the choice for R-A:** The job at the school turned out to be the perfect choice for me in a way I never expected. Initially, I didn't think I had a chance due to my lack of experience in education. However, when my husband encouraged me to take this leap and apply everywhere I was interested in, I found myself drawn to the school. Throughout the interview process, I hoped for this position as I felt it would allow me to utilize my talents and skills in a meaningful way, while also providing a creative outlet from time to time. It felt like pieces just fell into place when I accepted the position here, and having a boss that I got along with from day one made it even better!

**Eniovs most:** I'm most looking forward to serving both the staff and students at the school. I've come to realize the importance of my position and how it plays a vital role in supporting the school behind the scenes. Though much of it may happen in the background, I genuinely hope to provide the support the school needs to ensure the best school year possible for everyone involved.

One thing you will tell students as part of your introduction? I graduated from college during the height of the Covid pandemic in 2020. During my graduation ceremony, after accepting my diploma with ease, I gracefully stepped on a slick spot and fell flat on my face in front of about 200 people! To make it even more unforgettable, the whole thing was broadcast live on the internet. But hey, I survived it and now whenever I think "what's the worst thing that could happen to me" I watch that video and shed a laugh or two.

STAFF CONTINUED NEXT PAGE ▶





1204 Gowrie St. in Ruthven - Phone: 712-240-0388 Gregory Olson: ruthins@ruthventel.com Christie (Rouse) Poeppe: christie.olsonins@outlook.com

#### **ANGIE WOODS**

**Position:** GTRA Human Resources

**Experience:** Last 12 years I have been the Elementary Secretary and last 7 years Board Secretary for Graettinger-Terril

**Education:** Stewarts School of Hairstyling (Cosmetology) and University of South Dakota (Business)

**Lives in:** Terril

**Family:** Married to Darrell 13 years and have four children: Drew, Alisha, Payton, and Hannah. All grown and out on their own. I have two granddaughters: Isabella and Olivia My fur babies are, dog, Maggie and cats, Elvis and Sable

Making the change: I have been working with the SBO's for quite a while now and like doing that kind of work. It was a hard decision just to apply due to the fact I absolutely love my job as the Elementary Secretary. This job is kind of like investigating. I like figuring out problems or getting answers for the staff.

**Has enjoyed most:** THE STAFF.... can't say it enough! They are the best! **Looking forward to:** Learning new things like insurance, problem solving, and working with both district's staff.

One thing people may not know about you: I was a foster child from age of 5 to 18. Plus I was a foster parent for 9 children (not all at once) and did respite care for other foster parents for 10 years.



#### **TODD HOUGH**

**Position:** GTRA Activities Director

**Experience:** Will continue to teach at GT and continue as GTRA football coach.

**Education:** I have my BA in education from BVU and my Masters in education from Morningside.

**Lives in:** Graettinger

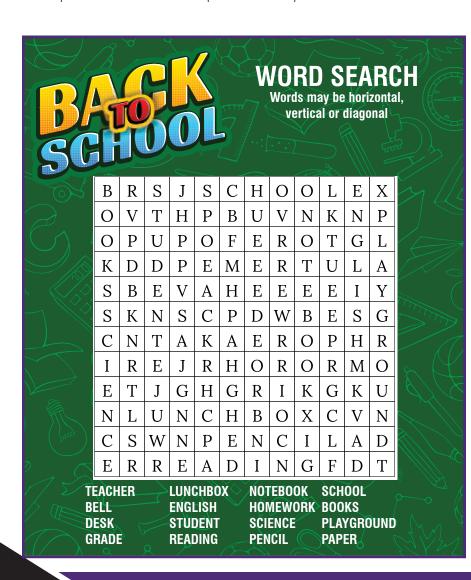
Family: Wife, Jen and children Madison, Max and

Making the change: Sports have been a big part of my life and I like to be involved to try and make the extra activities a positive experience for everyone

**Has enjoyed most:** Seeing the students grow and mature throughout their time at GTRA.

Looking forward to: Becoming more involved with all of the activities.

One thing people may not know about you: enjoy the outdoors and walleye fishing is one of my favorite things to do.



## **New Tech Ready for Teaching Staff**

Teachers and para-professionals will have new computers as they start the 2023-24 school year. Twenty-four Windows computers and 11 Chromebooks were purchased and prepared for the start of the year.

"The biggest benefits are improved functionality (the old ones just wear out), better performance and better security," said Technology Director Mr. Brian Hersom. "It also provides high-quality, modern devices for our staff.'

New copiers were also installed over the summer. At the ball field, a new storage shed is being completed along with upgrades to the concession stand restrooms. Earlier this summer, guests enjoyed the new bleachers at the softball field.



- Waterfalls
- Boulders & stone

■ Benches & tables

Ruthven Rocks

Call: 712-837-3333





#### Fruit Pizza

A fun way to get your kids to eat fruit! Glaze:

3/4 c. water

1/2 c. orange juice

1/4 c. lemon juice

1/2 c. sugar

1-1/2 T. cornstarch

Crust and toppings:

1 tube sugar cookies, frozen

8 oz. cream cheese, softened

2 T. sugar

1 T. milk

1 t. vanilla

2 bananas, sliced

4 peaches, sliced

2 c. strawberries, sliced

Mix glaze ingredients in saucepan. Bring to boil and cook one minute; cool. Spread thawed cookie dough over pizza pan and bake as directed. Combine cream cheese, sugar, milk and vanilla. Spread over cooled dough. Arrange fruit over the top then drizzle with glaze.

#### DATES AND TIMES

#### Wednesday, Aug. 16

7 p.m. HS computer rollout/ILCC orientation/freshman orientation

#### Friday, Aug. 18

8 a.m. GTRA all-staff professional development 5 p.m. Volleyball Gatorade Scrimmage

7 p.m. Football Gatorade Scrimmage

#### Monday, Aug. 21

8 a.m. GTRA teacher professional development 5:30 p.m. Volleyball, JV triangular at Emmetsburg

#### Tuesday, Aug. 22

8 a.m. Teacher/para professional development

5 p.m. Open House

#### Wednesday, Aug. 23

First day of school

6 p.m. R-A School Board Meeting

#### Thursday, Aug. 24

5 p.m. Volleyball V triangular at home

#### Friday, Aug. 25

7 p.m. Football at Siouxland Christian

#### Monday, Aug. 28

R-A First day of Preschool

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR guad at home

#### Wednesday, Aug. 30 2:30 p.m. Early out

#### Thursday, Aug. 31

5 p.m. Cross Country V boys at Emerald Hills, Okoboji

5 p.m. Volleyball V triangular at home

#### Friday, Sept. 1

2:30 p.m. Early out

7 p.m. Football vs. Northwood-Kensett at home

#### Monday, Sept. 4

No school - Labor Day

#### Tuesday, Sept. 5

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th at West Bend-Mallard 4:45 p.m. Volleyball JV at Estherville-LC 5 p.m. Cross Country V boys at Estherville

#### Thursday, Sept. 7

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR/JV/V at Manson-NW Webster

#### Friday, Sept. 8

7 p.m. Football at Rockford High School

#### Monday, Sept. 11

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th at home

5 p.m. Cross Country V boys at Emmetsburg

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR triangular at home

#### Thursday, Sept. 14

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th vs. West Bend-Mallard at home

4:45 p.m. Cross Country V girls at Little Sioux

5:45 p.m. Cross Country V boys at Little Sioux

5:30 p.m. JVR/JV/V Volleyball at Sioux Central

#### Friday, Sept. 15

No School-professional development

7 p.m. Football vs. West Bend-Mallard at home

#### Saturday, Sept. 16

9 a.m. Volleyball V Titan Tournament at home

#### Monday, Sept. 18

4:15 p.m. Cross Country b/g at Humboldt 4:30 p.m. Volleyball JV tournament at home

6 p.m. Football JV at Bishop Garrigan

#### Tuesday, Sept. 19

4:15 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th vs. H-LP at home

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR/JV/V at West Bend-Mallard

#### Wednesday, Sept. 20

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, Sept. 21

7 p.m. Coronation

Friday, Sept. 22

7 p.m. Football vs. St. Edmond at home

#### Saturday, Sept. 23

9 a.m. Volleyball V ELC tournament at Alta-Aurelia

Monday, Sept. 25

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th vs. Pocahontas Area at home

4 p.m. Football JH vs. Newell-Fonda at home

4:30 p.m. Cross Country b/g at Algona

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR at Newell-Fonda

5:45 p.m. Football JV vs. Newell-Fonda at home

#### Tuesday, Sept. 26

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th at Harris-Lake Park

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR/JV/V vs. Pocahontas Area at home

#### Wednesday, Sept. 27

2:30 p.m. Early out

#### Friday, Sept. 29

p.m. Football at Harris-Lake Park

#### Monday, Oct. 2

4 p.m. Football JH at Harris-Lake Park

5:45 p.m. Football JV at Harris-Lake Park

#### Tuesday, Oct. 3

4:30 p.m. Cross Country boys at Eagle Grove 5:30 p.m. JVR/JV/V Volleyball at Estherville-LC

#### Wednesday, Oct. 4

2:30 p.m. Early Out

Thursday, Oct. 5

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th at Sioux Central

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR/JV/V vs. Alta-Aurelia at home

Friday, Oct. 6

7 p.m. Football vs. Bishop-Garrigan at home

Monday, Oct. 9

4 p.m. Football JH at North Union

5:45 p.m. Football JV at North Union

4 p.m. Volleyball 7th-8th at Emmetsburg

4:30 p.m. Cross Country boys at Forest City

#### Wednesday, Oct. 11

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday Oct. 12

4:30 p.m. Cross Country b/g TLC meet at Alta

5:30 p.m. Volleyball JVR/JV/V at Southeast Valley

#### Friday, Oct. 13

7 p.m. Football at North Iowa

#### Monday, Oct. 16

4 p.m. Football JH at West Bend-Mallard

5:45 p.m. Football JV at West Bend-Mallard

#### Wednesday, Oct. 18

2:30 p.m. Early out

#### Friday, Oct. 20

End of first quarter

Tuesday, Oct. 24

2:30 p.m. Early out, parent-teacher conferences

#### Thursday, Oct. 26

2:30 p.m. Early out, parent-teacher conferences Friday, Oct. 27

No school

#### Wednesday, Nov. 1

2:30 p.m. Early out

Monday, Nov. 6

4 p.m. Basketball 7th-8th boys vs. H-LP at home

#### Wednesday, Nov. 8

2:30 p.m. Early out

Thursday, Nov. 9

4 p.m. Basketball 7th-8th boys vs. SL St. Mary's at home

Friday, Nov. 10

4 p.m. Basketball 7th-8th boys at Sioux Central

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



RUTHVEN-AYRSHIRE COMMUNITY SCHOOL 1505 Washington St. Ruthven, Iowa 51358

\*\*\*\*\*\*\*ECRWSSEDDM\*\*\*\*

POSTAL CUSTOMER

PRSRT STD U.S. POSTAGE PAID LAURENS, IA PERMIT NO. 21

**ECRWSS** 

# With R-A Lessons in mind, Sikora set to Lead at RCCC

Ryan Sikora says he is bringing some of the skills he learned from a tough coach and tough classes he had while at Ruthven-Ayrshire. The 2010 graduate says he looks back to his high school career and appreciates the tough classes that made him well-prepared for college.

He also appreciates the skills he learned from basketball coach Randy Hough. "A lot of people called him hard, but he is one of my favorite coaches. He knew how to get the best out of each person. And, how to adjust the strategy to get the most out of the team. I remember him from seventh grade on and that is what pushed me to play college basketball."

On June 1 Ryan took the lead at the Ruthven Community Care Center as administrator where he plans to put those skills to good use.

He completed his master's in health care administration in 2020. "I learned after working at Spencer Hospital, that I wanted to stay in health care," said Ryan. There he was the director of security for eight years. He has five years of work on the ambulance crew, which he continues to do.

Ryan and his wife, Audrey have a daughter, Mae, who was born three months early. Now, 18 months old, Mae is doing fine. Audrey is a teacher at Spencer where the family lives.

"In long-term health care, we are working in their home. We have a lot of different personalities and many different health needs," he said. Along with the care center, he oversees the assisted living and the independent living apartments, The Villa.

"This has been a long learning curve in my first sixty days, some things I have dealt with before and some things I have not. We have a great team here that has helped with my questions. I see myself as a leader and coach more so than as a boss."

Ryan says his personality is to jump in and do activities with the residents and staff. He enjoys having some flexibility in his job that allows him to spend time with residents or help the staff as part of the team.

While several nursing homes have closed in the region, Ryan says that RCCC is in a great spot financially and has a great staff. There are currently 37 residents at RCCC.

"Just after I started, we had the state surveyors in. The state average is sev-



en tags, and this year we had two. They were corrected quickly and did not require a re-visit. That is thanks to a great team here."

As a leader, he plans to get the right people in the right positions and then help them to grow.

He brings his coaching skills with him, having coached baseball here for seven years. He continues as a ref for basketball and an umpire for baseball. "Being around kids as a coach has taught me how to manage people and how to accommodate their lives."

"I think R-A helps students to have relationships with their classmates and with the teachers. I appreciate the small atmosphere. There is opportunity here."

As a go-getter, he also farms part-time and enjoys hunting and fishing.

He has a sister and brother who are also R-A grads, Alesha (2008) and Jared (2016). His parents live in Ruthven. Susan is the location manager for the Ayrshire sector of PRO Coop while Ron is the regional manager for New Coop out of Everly.

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





Today for

Living

Tomorrow