

From the Superintendent's Desk

September 25, 2008
Don Hague, Superintendent of Schools
Gering Public Schools

Welcome to Our New Certified Staff Members

The beginning of the 2008-2009 school year gives us a chance to welcome new certified staff members to our district. Please take this opportunity to get to know the new staff in our district. New certified staff members in each building and their assignment for this year are:

Misty Prochazka – Instrumental and Vocal Music Teacher at Cedar Canyon Elementary School, Geil Elementary School, Northfield Elementary School, Junior High School, Freshman Academy and High School

Misty has a Bachelor's degree in Vocal and Instrumental Music (K-12). Misty has previously taught kindergarten music (general); fifth grade beginning band, junior high band and choir and high school band and choir.

Kelly Tofflemire – Computers at Cedar Canyon Elementary School, Geil Elementary School, Lincoln Elementary School and Northfield Elementary School

Kelly has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and is currently working on his Master's degree in Administration. Kelly previously worked for nine years as Director of Technology in Kimball, Nebraska, three years as a fifth grade teacher at Spencer-Naper and one year as a para-educator and substitute teacher in Hastings, Nebraska.

Allison Smith – Second Grade Teacher at Cedar Canyon Elementary School

Allison has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in mild to moderate disabilities. This is Allison's first year teaching. Allison worked as a substitute teacher for Gering Public Schools last year.

Monty Zeiler – Third/Fourth Grade Teacher at Cedar Canyon Elementary School

Monty has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Math. This is Monty's first year teaching.

Stanna Funk – Fifth/Sixth Grade Teacher at Cedar Canyon Elementary School

Stanna has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education and a Master's degree in Education-Curriculum and Instruction. Stanna taught for six years at Trinity Lutheran School in a combination of classrooms. She also worked at LCCC-CDC Preschool/Child Care and as a substitute teacher for Gering Public Schools and Scottsbluff Public Schools.

James Miller – Fifth Grade Teacher at Geil Elementary School

James has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Math and an endorsement in Coaching. This is James' first year teaching.

Kory Knight – Sixth Grade Teacher at Geil Elementary School

Kory has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Early Childhood. She is currently working on her Master’s degree in Administration. Kory has taught for eight years in various grades.

Misty Baltensperger – Sixth Grade Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School

Misty has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education. Misty previously taught for five years at a private school in Jackson, Wyoming.

Kenda Foos – Special Education Teacher at Lincoln Elementary School

Kenda has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education (K-8) and is currently attending Chadron State College to complete her Special Education endorsement (K-12). Kenda has worked for the past eight years as a substitute teacher and paraprofessional at St. Joseph’s Children’s Home in Torrington, WY.

Sara Leitheiser – Kindergarten Teacher at Northfield Elementary School

Sara has a Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood Education (Kindergarten endorsement). Sara taught kindergarten for two year at Manzanita Elementary School in Kingman, AZ.

Megan Pieper – First Grade Teacher at Northfield Elementary School

Megan has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education with a minor in Early Childhood Education. Megan taught kindergarten for two years in Minatare.

Chad Bates – Fifth Grade Teacher at Northfield Elementary School

Chad has a Bachelor’s degree in Elementary Education (K-8) and Physical Education (K-6) and a Master’s degree. Chad taught fourth grade for one year in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He also taught for four years in Scottsbluff teaching physical education (K-5), fifth grade and third grade.

Ben Treffer – Seventh Grade Social Studies Teacher at Junior High School

Ben has a Bachelor’s degree in Social Studies (7-12). This is Ben’s first year of teaching.

Michael Broderick – Seventh/Eighth Grade Social Studies Teacher at Junior High School

Michael has a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science and a Teacher’s Certificate (7-12 Social Studies). He worked as a substitute teacher for Lincoln Public Schools in Lincoln, NE.

Amy Gross – Seventh/Eighth Grade Special Education Teacher at Junior High School

Amy has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with endorsements in Early Childhood Education and Special Education Mild/Moderate. Amy has previously worked for one year as a para-educator, substitute teacher and special education teacher at Gering Public Schools. She also worked for one year as an elementary special education and ELL teacher at Morrill, four years at PAL as a special education, math and homeroom teacher and three years at Regional West Medical Center as a teacher in the behavioral health residential program.

Crystal Palser – Seventh/Eighth Grade Computer Science Teacher at Junior High School

Crystal has a Bachelor's degree in Business Administration. This is Crystal's first year teaching. Crystal has been a substitute teacher for Lincoln Public Schools in Lincoln, Gering Public Schools and Scottsbluff Public Schools.

Amanda Linn – Special Education Teacher at Freshman Academy

Amanda has a Bachelor's degree in Elementary Education (K-6) and Special Education (K-12). This is her first year teaching.

Pedro Sulu – Spanish Teacher at Freshman Academy and High School

Pedro has a Bachelor's degree and Teaching Certificate with endorsements in Spanish and Physical Education. Pedro taught for fifteen years at Scottsbluff Public Schools. He also coached soccer and tennis.

Pam Caesar – Biology and Natural Science Teacher at High School

Pam has a Bachelor's degree and Teaching Certificate. Pam previously worked as a Biology teacher at Canyon Springs in Moreno Valley, CA, and one year as a Biology teacher at Leuzinger High School in Hawthorne, CA. She also worked for five years at St. Catherine Labourer School in Torrance, CA, as a Life Science, Physical Science, Art, Social Studies and Language Arts teacher.

Tyler Thompson – Speech/English Teacher at High School

Tyler has a Bachelor's degree in Secondary Education with an endorsement in English (7-12). This is Tyler's first year of teaching.

Deb Carpenter-Nolting – English Teacher at High School

Deb has a Master's degree in Education and a Bachelor's degree in Literature. Deb worked as an Instructor of English at Chadron State College, Instructor of English and Reading at Oglala Lakota College, Chair of Humanities Department at Oglala Lakota College, Language Arts Teacher Chapter 1 at Pine Ridge High School and taught K-8 at White Clay Public School-Extension Community School.

Gering Public Schools is very fortunate to have such quality teachers join our school system.