

THE CHARGER

WHS hires Spanish, P.E. teachers

Staff Reports

WHS hired two new teachers at Monday night's board meeting.

David Amer will replace Kathy Hendricks as Spanish Teacher. Hendricks has only been teaching on B days, so some adjustments may be made to next semester's schedule.

Garrett Eck will take over the P.E. teaching position currently being filled by girls head basketball coach, Shanna Perine.

The board also hired Kolby Harris and Adam Laubert to coach junior high boys basketball.

Check out next week's Charger for interviews with the new teachers.

New librarian starts at high school



Whitney Lynch started last week as the WHS librarian/media tech. She will be in charge of the library, computer lab and other duties. Photo by Hannah Mumpower.

Hannah Mumpower
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WHS welcomes graduate Whitney Lynch to fill Library/Media Tech position.

Lynch, a 2009 graduate and daughter of Paxico Middle School Social Studies and WHS Cheer coach Cheryl Lewis, has returned to the halls of Wabauunsee to fill the Library/Media Tech position previously held by Heather McCreight. McCreight moved to Wabauunsee Junior High to fill the Library/Media Tech position there.

This is Lynch's first Library. "I have never been a librarian before," Lynch said, "but I'm learning."

Lynch's favorite memories of Wabauunsee include winning the state championship in softball her sophomore year and cheer leading. Lynch said her hobbies are her kids. "I have three of them," Lynch said, "They are 9, 5 and 1 so they keep me pretty busy, but I also enjoy reading and sports."

Lynch enjoys reading Nicholas Sparks books in her free time.

HOLLY and JOLLY



Emma Alderman, Tara Quintanilla, Bernice Poulter, Gabby Simmons and Kimi Buchanan sing during choir practice at WHS. The choir performs December 17 in the auditorium. Photo by Abby Oliver.

Students prepare for winter choir, band concerts

Jayna Keller
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As Wabauunsee students prepare for winter concerts, one teacher is directing his first winter concert, while another is preparing for his last.

Maple Hill Elementary performs Tuesday in Maple Hill and Alma performs Thursday in the WHS auditorium. Both shows begin at 7 p.m.

Elementary music teacher Peter Ruby likes the challenge of directing young students.

"Young students definitely enjoy to wiggle when singing,

but their enthusiasm is contagious. It's apparent they love what they are doing and I am very excited for them to show their parents what they are capable of," Ruby said.

The students will perform a selection of Christmas songs, including "Christmas Makes me Sing," "A Gift for Santa," "Bubble Wra," "Simple Gifts" and "Little Drummer Boy."

"I have challenged the students, especially 4th grade, with difficult music and they have risen to the challenge," Ruby said. "I'm proud of their hard work and determination, especially

their perseverance through struggles."

Wabauunsee Middle and High school teacher Richard Philbrook is preparing for his last Christmas concert before retirement.

"They will perform everything from traditional, like Carol of The Bells, to some modern-sounding arrangements with some new songs. A wide variety, from old favorites, traditional, to modern." Philbrook said. "They're working very hard, starting with the logistics, and fine tuning a couple of notes."

Emmert performs in Nutcracker

Emma Frey
@_emmalfrey_

Ballet plays a big part in freshman Cecelia Emmert's life.

The 2018 Ballet Midwest production of The Nutcracker marks Emmert's ninth year performing in the ballet.

Emmert was introduced to ballet at the age of six. "My aunt signed me up for some classes and I continued from there," Emmert said.

This is Emmert's first year being a part of Company through Ballet Midwest. "Company basically gives you more responsibility," Emmert says, "you're higher up and considered more mature." Dancers must audition for Company every year. New dancers are given a big sister to help introduce them and get them used to company and when they are older they receive a little sister.

In addition, this is Emmert's fourth year en pointe. Pointe is a ballet position in which the dancer dances on the tips of their toes. This requires different shoes and requires more effort and practice than dancing on



flat feet.

Rehearsal in preparation for The Nutcracker began in October with practices twice a week. The dancers are then given a break and return with practice four times a week. The week leading up to the production includes practice every day except Monday. "We practice a lot," Emmert said. Some dancers even miss school in order to attend rehearsal. The Nutcracker features a cast of about a hundred dancers, ranging from young

kids to adults and includes both men and women.

With ballet occupying most of her time, Emmert still finds time to balance school work and a social life. "I just try to get all of my homework done," Emmert said, "when I'm done then I can focus on dance." Emmert said she loses a lot of sleep, but she's managing to stay caught up.

This year, Emmert will play the part of a Yellow Flower and a Spanish Corp. "I like being flower," Emmert said. She said her favorite role is either flowers or a Hungarian dancer. Emmert's favorite part of the ballet is Act II when the Russian dancers are performing in front of Clara and the Nutcracker.

Emmert has also been a part of several other ballets including Sleeping Beauty, Romeo and Juliet, Swan Lake and will be a part of Coppelia this upcoming spring. Emmert intends to continue ballet until she graduates high school.

On top of ballet, Emmert also enjoys reading and art. "I really enjoy alone time and music," she said, "I don't really do much besides ballet."

OPINION

WHS needs better guest speakers

Kendyl Bolinder
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"Don't drink and drive." "Stay drug free." These are things that high school students are constantly reminded of.

The speakers who come to Wabauunsee are repetitive, and several have the same general message. We should be bringing in better speakers that will be more beneficial for the students.

Speakers are a waste of time for some students. They are missing advisor base and class time to attend mandatory presentations, even though they often have no interest in what the presenters are teaching.

Sophomore Karlee Feyh said, "I think the speakers we've had this year are good to hear, but after you hear the same stuff over and over, you tend to stop paying attention. A solution would be to expand the range of topics. We need to have speakers who have a way of reaching students that is more fun than just lecturing."

There are so many speakers with important platforms that are relevant to high school students today. WHS needs to expand its speaker selection and the topics they cover.

There are things that will impact teens more than lectures about seat belt use and drugs — topics they are already fairly educated on. One great topic is depression and suicide. An estimated 3.1 million teens have had a major depressive episode in the last year. As a student body, students at Wabauunsee high have received little education about this topic, or the things that go hand in hand with it, such as anxiety/mental disorders, bullying, human trafficking, healthy relationships, academic struggles or social media use.

A small group of students traveled to Washburn rural high school earlier this school year to witness a speech by Kevin Hines, who survived a jump off the Golden Gate Bridge. He told the distressing story of his life. He talked about all the people he had lost to suicide, one being his first psychiatrist. He spoke about his struggles with bipolar disorder, his time in psychiatric hospitals and his failed suicide attempt. He reminded people that they they can get through it, and encouraged them to "Be Here Tomorrow." He was very relatable and had a way of interacting with students that was both fun and inspiring.

Sophomore Ryleigh Jones, who attended the presentation, said "He communicated with us in a way we would understand, rather than just slides on a PowerPoint. His topic was the same as many other speakers, but he stood out. He has been through it all since he was born. He wanted to make kids understand there's always another option."

Wabauunsee should be bringing in speakers who will make an impact on students. We shouldn't select speakers based on the fact that they've been here before, or that they don't cost much. We should put in the time and money to host people who will truly make a difference in our schools.