

# THE CHARGER

## New English teacher 'thrilled' to join WHS staff

Kendyl Bolinder  
@BolinderKendyl

Miriam Barton has been hired to fill the Wabaunsee High School English teacher position.

Starting in the fall of 2019, Barton will teach English II, English IV, and College Comp.



Miriam Barton

Barton is originally from the Texas Gulf Coast region, but has been in Kansas for several years. She has been married nearly 16 years and has two children, ages 11 and 13. She completed her undergraduate education at Kansas University and her graduate at Kansas State, where she taught English courses for two years while she worked towards getting her degree in English.

Barton's favorite hobby outside of education is cooking.

"One of my life's passions is cooking. I mean real cooking. Homemade, from scratch stuff," she said. "I also have a love for beautiful things. Beautiful nature, beautiful music, beautiful art and so on."

"When I'm not cooking or reading you can usually catch me outside doing something - I love being outdoors."

While Barton enjoyed being a stay-at-home mom, she is very passionate about books and writing, so she decided to further her education as soon as both of her children were old enough to attend school.

"Literature, and expressing myself through writing, have brought quite a bit of joy to my life, and I feel very called to share that passion and enthusiasm with young people trying to find their way in life."

Barton said she is thrilled to be joining the WHS staff next year. "I am attracted to the kind of attention that I can give students in smaller class sizes and I feel like I can do a lot of good in the environment at WHS. I love the literature for this age group and I am very happy to continue teaching college English courses there as well."

Principle Jan Hutley says, "She is exceptionally qualified, and she currently teaches at the college level, so she'll be able to teach our Hiland Community College English class. She comes highly recommended, and we're excited to have her here. She has a lot of excitement in regards to teaching high school kids."

## WINTER SPORTS

### Girls basketball finishes 3rd at state

Kaytlyn Meseke  
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The girls basketball team ended the season with a third place finish in the state tournament and a record of 22-4.

The Chargers entered the state tournament seeded number one and for the first round they played the eight seed, Heritage Christian Academy. WHS rolled to a 91-42 victory and moved to the semifinals.

"The first game, we came out and just played basketball like we know how. Unbreakable defense and fast breaks," senior Abby Oliver said.

In the semifinals, the Chargers had a tough match up to four seed, Garden Plains. The girls came short of making it to the finals after losing a heartbreaker in overtime, 55-51.

After losing in the semifinals, the girls competed against Trego Community, the second seed, for third place. The Chargers were able to pull it through for the third place finish in the state with a final score of 49-36.

"The third game, I think was a rough start because it really wasn't where we wanted to be playing, but we pulled it together the second half and brought home third place," Oliver said.

The team was disappointed about not getting to play for the state championship, but was happy to end the season with a win.

"We worked hard at state and came up short, but I am just thankful we could end our season with a win and could leave (coach) Perine on a win," junior Madelyn Hutley said.

The team supported each other throughout the entire season to get them to the state tournament.

"What made this season special is the whole year we worked together playing as a team. No one played just for themselves. We all had each other's backs," Oliver said.

The team finished the season with a winning record, a third place state finish, first place in the Royal Valley Tournament and second place in the Wabaunsee Invitational Tournament along with several players receiving awards.

Oliver was awarded with All MEL 1st Team, Capital Journal 2A All-State 1st Team, Sports in KS 2A All-Tournament Team and Sports in KS 2A Player of the Year. Hutley received All MEL 1st Team, Capital Journal 2A All-State 2nd Team and Sports in KS All-Tournament Team. Junior Autymn Schreiner received All MEL 1st Team and Capital Journal 2A All-State Honorable Mention.

The team looks to compete again next year, although it will lose seniors Abby Oliver and Alyssa Lohmeyer. The team will also be losing head coach Shanna Perine.

"This season was special because it was our last season with Perine and I'm gonna miss Abby so much and I know she will do great at Washburn," Hutley said.



Senior Abby Oliver goes to the basket during the 3rd place game against Trego Community High School. Oliver was named All MEL 1st Team, Capital Journal 2A All-State 1st Team, Sports in KS 2A All-Tournament Team and Sports in KS 2A Player of the Year. Photo by Sarah Vanstory.

### WRESTLING SEASON ENDS AT REGIONALS

Sean Dugger  
@seandugger01

The Wabaunsee wrestling team faced a sorrow-filled end at the regional tournament as no wrestlers qualified for state.

Despite the forecasted snow and the cancellation of school, the charger wrestling team traveled to Rossville to compete in the Regional tournament February 15 and 16. Individuals would wrestle through a bracket where two losses would end a season while a finish in the top four would grant a trip to compete in the 3-2-1A State Wrestling Tournament. Even though five wrestlers would be competing with no high school state experience among them, the team still hoped to do well in the competition.

"I felt pretty good and we had a shot in multiple weight classes," head wrestling coach Joey Heersche said.

The team would wrestle hard and only freshman Marek Boatwright would have his season cut short at the end of the first day. Sophomore Eli Mumpower wrestled to the semifinals where a win would put him in the championship match, but lost by pin and would wrestle through the backside with another chance at state.

Senior Sean Dugger was the first match of the second day. A close match that finished in overtime, a loss ended his season and high school career. Sophomore Derek Wallin looked to come back after a tough loss in the quarterfinals, but met a tough opponent who put an end to his state bid and season. Freshman Koby Corp would be the next Charger on the mat. A match ending in a pin would signal the end of his season. Mumpower would once again be a match away from a trip to state. He pulled ahead in the first period by points, but his opponent came back and put Mumpower on his back to end season.

"It hurt to lose again," Mumpower said. "I hope to make it next year."

The team looked to rebuild after the graduation of two state champions and hoped to send multiple wrestlers to the state tournament. Despite having no state appearances this year, the team still looks forward to next year and the years ahead.

Despite a disappointing end, coach Joey Heersche is optimistic for the program's future. "I feel like the immediate future is looking good, but the long-term is looking great with 60 club members, many of them returning from a previous season," he said.

The team will graduate two seniors at the end of the year, Austen Bonnette and Sean Dugger.

"It has a lot of fun and such a huge learning experience," Dugger said. "I had hopes to make my last season last a week longer than it did, but a bracket with seven previous state qualifiers made it very difficult."

### BOYS BASKETBALL ENDS SEASON IN SUB-STATE

The Charger boys basketball ended its season in sub-state with a 78-64 loss to Hillsboro.

Although the team was disappointed in the final record of 5-16, the team stayed competitive throughout the season, with five of the losses by single digits.

"The season went decent, we definitely improved from last year. Highlight was beating Rossville, we played very well that game," freshman Cade Oliver said.

"It was definitely a building year. We got a new coach and we tried some new things. The highlight was winning the Wabaunsee Invitational," junior Keaton Johnson said.

The team graduates seniors Conner Brown, Tanner Imthurn and Austin Magette. The team also loses junior Rhett Murray, who received All-League honorable mention. Murray transferred to St. Marys at spring break.

## 8 journalism students place at regionals

Staff reports

Eight WHS journalism students placed in 11 events at the Kansas Scholastic Press Association regional contest February 28.

In the writing contests, students are given quotes and information and must write a story in 90 minutes. The copy editing contest included a short test and a story to comment on.

Sophomore Emma Frey placed first in the editorial writing competition.

"Our students write a lot of stories throughout the year, which really prepares them for this competition," newspaper adviser Brendan Praeger said.

The students will participate at state May 4 at KU.

### Kansas Scholastic Press Association Regional Results

**Copy Editing**  
Eleanor Badeker- Honorable Mention  
Sean Dugger- Honorable Mention

**Yearbook Copywriting**  
Laurel Barber- 2nd

**Feature Writing**  
Kaytlyn Meseke- 2nd  
Hannah Mumpower- Honorable Mention

**News Writing**  
Eleanor Badeker- 3rd  
Sean Dugger- Honorable Mention

**Cutline Writing**  
Kaytlyn Meseke- 3rd

**Editorial Writing**  
Emma Frey- 1st  
Kendyl Bolinder- Honorable Mention

**Yearbook Sports**  
Abby Oliver- Honorable Mention

## Lift-a-thon to raise funds for weight room

Laurel Barber  
@lawl\_e\_20

WHS students are working to raise funds for the weight room.

Students are taking part in a lift-a-thon March 22 to raise money for the weight room. Students asked community and family members to sponsor or donate money for the cause.

Weights teacher Garrett Eck is leading the attempt to keep the weight room up to date.

"There is still stuff we can get more of to help increase our student's ability, whether they want to use weights for sports or work," Eck said.

Eck hopes to buy new equipment for the classes and for the community. A few things on the list include medicine balls, yoga mats, foam rollers, new bands, and possibly a new stair stepper.

Contact Eck at [geck@usd329.com](mailto:geck@usd329.com) for more information.