

## Editorial: Students need to take virus precautions seriously

Returning to school during a pandemic is concerning for a multitude of reasons: the unknowns of how long we'll be able to continue in person, the constant possibility of getting sick or spreading the virus, the potential loss of another school year and sports season.

All things considered, we feel USD 329 is doing all that it reasonably can to keep us safe and in school.

Only starting school the past week, we haven't had much time to see the safety precautions in prac-

tice but in theory there are lots of new rules to keep us safe and healthy. Teachers and staff are taking these precautions very seriously and many students also comply with the rules. Though nobody likes wearing masks, it is critical that we all do our part and follow these procedures to ensure the health of our school and community.

New precautions in place to protect the health of students and staff include:

- Requiring masks in all district buildings.

- Stations with hand sanitizer in all classrooms.

- Open lunch was also given back to juniors in the hopes that it will ensure social distancing.

- Air purifiers, temperature checks, and daily health screenings.

- Sports will follow KSHSAA guidelines.

- Limiting the lunchroom to three students per table and opening the old gym for use during lunch.

With all the boundaries set in place, it will be up to the students

and staff to do their part in keeping their peers healthy.

Being such a small school, we are naturally more distant from each other, but that does not mean we can be complacent. Activities such as hand washing and sanitizing are up to the students individually, so we all need to take personal responsibility for everyone's health.

Though this is a very confusing and scary time, there are lots of things we can do to make it a little easier for everyone. No matter what opinions you have it is up to all of us

to work together to keep our school safe enough to continue in-person classes and stop the spread of COVID-19. Many students thrive with in-person learning and it may be a struggle for some to continue online. Without a doubt, we all have the same end goal in mind: returning our lives to normal and navigating this crisis as safely as possible.

The editorial is the opinion of the Charger staff.  
Send letters to the editor to [whscharger@gmail.com](mailto:whscharger@gmail.com).

## New art teacher joins WHS staff

Grace Spellman  
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New art teacher Brianna Guinn enjoys gardening and watching tv.

Originally from Tonganoxie, Kansas, Guinn now lives in Silver Lake with her fiancé, three dogs, and cat. She attended Kansas City Kansas Community College, Johnson County Community College, and Kansas University. After completing college she began teaching middle and high school art near Salina in the Twin Valley school district.

Guinn said her love of art started young. "I took my first real art class in high school and just felt like it was a way to communicate. I wasn't really great at writing or speech but it was easier to express myself through art."

Guinn said she chose to teach here because "Wabaunsee was just a better fit. The commute time to my old job was an hour and a half there and another hour and a half back. I also just like smaller, more rural schools."

When she's not at school you can find Guinn in her garden, caring for her animals or bingeing her favorite TV shows like Futurama or movies like the Marvel and DC "If there were a job for binge watching TV, I would have it."

Eliza Barton, one of Guinn's students, said "the new art teacher is such a sweet and understanding person. Her class offers a great work environment and is a very positive experience over all."



Art teacher Brianna Guinn works with a student in advanced design.

## FALL SPORTS PREVIEW

# Tennis, volleyball reload after successful seasons



Senior Kendyl Bolinder warms up during the 2019 State tennis tournament.

### TENNIS ENTERS THE SEASON WITH A LARGE SENIOR CLASS, INCLUDING RETURNING STATE QUALIFIERS

Tennis enters the season with hopes to return some players to state and no large changes in protocols due to Covid-19.

WHS hits the courts at 3 p.m. Thursday in Wamego.

The Charger interviewed head coach Brendan Praeger and seniors Kendyl Bolinder and Reagan Feyh.

#### How are you feeling about the season so far?

**Praeger:** "Honestly I'm really excited about the season because we have a lot of people in our senior class that have just gotten better and better each year. We came off a really good year last year, Kendyl and Raegan went to state, so I'm sure that they are confident coming back. I think that they've played a lot over the summer and they are really going to do well. We've really got a strong team, top to bottom we've got six or seven other players who are going to be competitive at the varsity level."

#### Are you looking forward to working with the new and younger players? Do you think you have some natural talent yet?

**Praeger:** "I think if you look at some of our juniors like Maddie Schurle and Sarah Vanstory, by default, the way graduation is they're going to be on varsity next year. So we need to make sure that they're ready to step into those roles. Danielle Murphy, she was a freshman last year, played some JV but this year we have to make sure that she's up to speed because she'll be on varsity next year. That's

a challenge for every coach but especially when you have a large senior class graduating."

**Bolinder:** "I think one of the biggest things we've had to do as seniors is try to get other people fired up because we have a lot of fun playing tennis. I've been working really hard in the off season and really want to finish strong."

#### Who do you think some of the key players are going to be this season?

**Praeger:** "It's kinda fluid in tennis. My expectation is that at this point Lilly Ogden will probably be our number one singles player. She's been just varsity for three years and she's been playing well over the summer. I think she'll step up and play really well this year. Kendyl and Raegan are number one in doubles since they went to state last year. Mayah Mumpower played varsity for the last couple of years so as a junior she'll probably be in one of those spots, whether she plays singles or doubles, we'll see. Karlee Feyh has improved a lot over the summer so she'll probably compete for that and Jayna Keller has improved a lot. Bri Devader just started last year. She's a good athlete, if we can get her to be a little more consistent she could probably play singles or doubles. We'll kind of mix those players up but then everybody has the chance to compete so all the other players on the team will have an opportunity as well."

For full versions of each interview, check out the Senioritis Podcast on [whscharger.com](http://whscharger.com).

Check next week's issue for previews of football and cross country.



Senior Jordan Magette sets to Maddy Wertzberger at the 2019 State tournament.

### VOLLEYBALL LOOKS TO NEW SENIORS FOR LEADERSHIP FOLLOWING STATE CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON

The volleyball team is looking to make another run at state, starting with the Amy Schutter Memorial Tournament Saturday at home.

The Charger interviewed head coach Tracy Capoun and senior players Jordan Magette and Maddy Wertzberger.

#### How are you feeling about the season so far?

**Magette:** "We feel good but we're scared because we don't want it taken away."

**Capoun:** "We talked today about how our goal today is to end the season on top obviously, that's what every high school team wants to do. But in reality our biggest goal this year is to be able to play and to try to eliminate any sickness or anything that could possibly take the season away. So our goal is to just play."

#### What are some of the teams biggest strengths or weaknesses so far?

**Capoun:** "We have the confidence coming off the championship last year and second the year before and lots of returning starters. So that confidence always helps in any sport and those same varsity players have joined in the leader roles over the years as well."

#### Who do you think some of the key players are going to be this year?

**Capoun:** "Talking about the last few years we've had four players who have pretty much played varsity and in reserve in those championship years. We'll definitely be

looking for our two seniors, Maddy Wertzberger and Jordan Magette, who have both played multiple positions throughout high school, and Kara (Hafenstine) as one of our lead setters last year. Lauren Schutter and Maddy both had honors last year, state recognition and the Mid-East League recognition. Those four players, we'll be looking at the leadership qualities and playing abilities. Everyone has got to step up and be a role player this year. Who knows what the year is going to be like."

#### What do you think some of the newer, younger players are going to bring to the table this year?

**Capoun:** "You can tell that they have worked not just during the season but also outside of it and lots of them played club ball and summer ball. I think I told them during the first practice this summer that we're not just looking at this year, we're also looking at the next four years being on the winning side."

#### What big events or games are you looking forward to this season?

**Capoun:** "State is always a big one, but another one on my list is just the Mid-East league. It's always tough, sometimes even tougher than state, because we have a lot of powerhouses who have gone the distance and also won the championships at state level. I think that comradery and respect and being open and willing to help each other are some great treats about our upperclassmen. I'm excited to have all our juniors and seniors back because I think that they are willing to be very coachable and very good leaders."