



THE CHARGER

WHS changes staff, policies for new year

Danielle Murphy | social media editor

In addition to new some new staff, several policies and procedures have changed for the new school year.

New administrators: It's an entirely new administrative team for USD 329. Superintendent Troy Pitsch and elementary principal Robert Schawo began their first years at WHS. Junior high principal Steve Oliver will also lead the high school. Athletic director Jeron Weisshaar will act as assistant principal for WJH and WHS.

No phones allowed during class: While students are allowed to have phones during passing periods and lunch, they aren't allowed to have their phones in class or restrooms. "I don't think we have changed the phone policy much. We are trying to be more consistent from classroom to classroom. As far as leaving the phone to go to the restroom, I am told by teachers that this has cut down on rest room trips," principal Steve Oliver said.

• Tardy policy to be enforced: The tardy policy is already in the handbook, but administrators and staff emphasized enforcing it more, including possible detentions for students with six tardies. Weisshaar said he hopes students will be in class on time and understand the consequences. Classes can start on time and students won't miss instruction.

Homecoming traditions adjusted: With last year's homecoming having several rough patches, student council adviser Amy Cassell and cheer coach Cheryl Lewis look to make changes to have the district and community more involved. Students will have a full day of classes on Friday, September 9, with the Homecoming Parade moving to Wednesday night. Friday will feature an all-district Pep Rally in the gym about 1:30.

THE CHARGER

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English teacher works to create welcoming environment

AJ Grutsch | editor in chief

From Reno, Nevada to Carlisle, Pennsylvania, Sierra Page has made her way back to Kansas to become the new WHS English teacher.

Page teaches English 2 and English 4 while also acting as a proctor for college English. She will also advise NHS and be a senior class sponsor.

While college English through Highland Community College will still be taught online by previous teacher Miriam Barton, Page will assist students in any way she can.

Page started the year by having her students take the Multiple Intelligences Quiz to find out the best ways to help students learn. "My biggest challenge has been finding out what works for each student, not all students learn the same way," she said.

Before WHS, Page taught online English classes to immigrants living in America. She said the experience taught her a lot about how to be a

teacher. "I learned how to engage with students and find out ways I could have their interests included in learning to make learning fun," Page said.

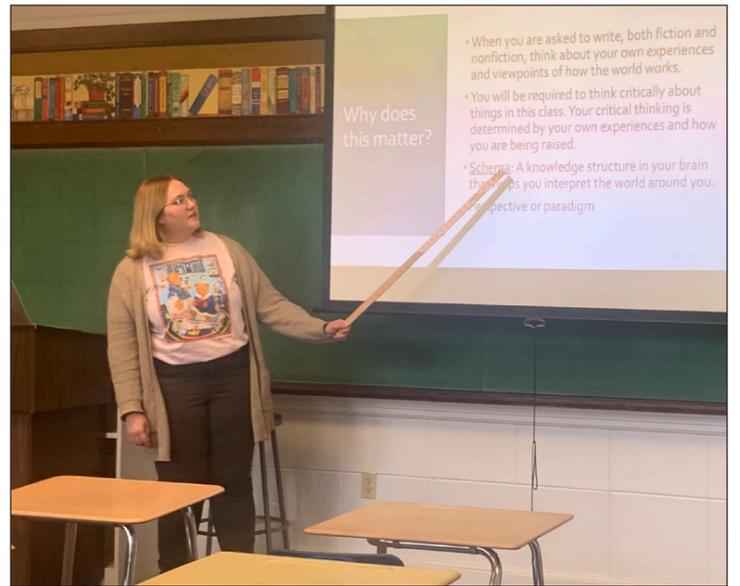
Page received her education from Florida International University in Miami. She currently attends K-State to get her masters degree in Education.

Education runs in her family, as both parents work in education. Wanting to stay in Kansas long term was part of the reason Page had decided to apply at WHS.

"I feel very strongly about all schools, even the smaller ones are still important. I don't want to overlook them just because the student body count is smaller," Page said.

Being new to a small town, Page says she still has more to learn about the culture of Wabaunsee. She said that she has a love for the small town charm.

In her free time, Page crochets and knits. She has a soft spot for fiber arts and all other



New WHS English teacher Sierra Page discusses rhetoric with her 6th hour English 4 class. Page is teaching English 2, 4 and proctoring college English, as well as sponsoring NHS. Photo by AJ Grutsch.

arts in general. Page said she enjoys reading and watching her favorite movies as well.

As for the tone of her classroom, Page wants all students to know that her class is a

safe space without any sort of tolerance for bullying. "I want students to feel safe in my classroom for who they are, no matter what that means," Page said.

Fall Sports | Tennis, volleyball to start seasons this week

TENNIS ENTERS SEASON WITH EXPERIENCED SQUAD

Sienna Jones, Ava Meinhardt | staff writers

Tennis coach Brendan Praeger has high hopes going into the 2022 tennis season. The numbers have increased this year with some competitive returning players.

"We were very young last year, with all but one player entering their first varsity contests at the start of the season. While that isn't ideal, that experience should pay off this year," Praeger said.

On the singles side, junior Baylie Tharman is back for her third year playing tennis. Tharman has been dual-sporting with volleyball and tennis all three years. "It's hard finding time to practice both because different coaches want different things for practice times. Balancing that with schoolwork is also challenging," Tharman said.

Even with her dual-sporting, Praeger expects good things from the player. "Baylie Tharman is probably our strongest individual player. She's a good singles player who has worked really hard over the summer. By the end of last year she was competitive at regionals, and she has improved every part of her game."

Sophomore Ava Huske will play the other singles position for the start of the year.

Danielle Murphy is one of two seniors on the team. Playing all four years, Murphy is looking for a successful season. As a varsity player her junior year, she's hopeful for regionals and state — on both

a competitive level as well as just enjoying her final season. "It's a fun sport overall, and a great way to get out and try something new," Murphy said.

Murphy will partner with sophomore Meredith Denton for the first meet. "Meredith has a tremendous serve and I can tell she understands strategy and court position a lot better this year," Praeger said. "I think she'll have a lot more confidence than she had as a freshman."

Sophomore Emily Meyer will partner with junior Ava Meinhardt at #2 doubles. "Emily improved a lot since her freshman season, and Ava worked hard all summer. I think they will improve a lot throughout the season," Praeger said.

Ally Garst is the other senior. Although it's her first year on the team, she's just as excited. "I'm enjoying it so far. It's very fun and I'm learning lots of new things."

Sophomore Kyra Smith, and freshmen Hailey and Chloe Standefer complete the roster. Praeger said the team should be competitive right away. "We have had someone each year who's in the hunt for state. We should be in that position again this year."

At the end of the season, Wabaunsee will have the opportunity to host the 3-2-1A State tournament for the first time ever. The tournament is scheduled for October 14-15 at Kossover Tennis Center in Topeka. "It's great that we can host, even though our facilities don't even allow us to host meets. I'm happy to keep the tournament in our part of the state and I think we can provide a good experience for

At WHSCHARGER.COM

- View tennis and volleyball photos at whscharger.com, and look for cross country and football previews in next week's issue
- View bios of the 2022 Charger staff
- Read and answer the question of the week

participating schools," Praeger said.

The team begins its season at 10 a.m. Thursday in Wamego.

VOLLEYBALL LOOKS TO CONTINUE SUCCESS BY DEVELOPING TALENT

Jacob Meseke | editor in chief

Team unity will be a big key for the volleyball team to make it back to the state tournament.

Head volleyball coach Chris Smart is entering his second season as coach. He looks forward to seeing the development of his players this year. "I think what every coach looks forward to is the progression of all of their student athletes and how well they adapt to the change of what we are asking of them," Smart said.

The Chargers lost five seniors from last year, of which four went on to play collegiate sports. Lauren Schutter is the only one playing volleyball (Michigan State). Smart said the team will definitely miss that group. "I would say the overall athleticism from our seniors last year was definitely a contributing factor to how good we were."

Smart said the incoming freshman class will be something to watch for the next four years. "They are a very

athletic group of ladies," Smart said. "With volleyball it's a lot about technique and footwork and that's something that I'm excited about coaching in their development."

In addition to underclassmen, the team added senior Lexi Barnes, a transfer from Abilene. "I'm looking forward to having a good season with my new teammates and coaches that push me to be my best," Barnes said.

Barnes is one of four seniors on the team. Paxton Meyer, Annie Wright and Hadlee Diepenbrock also return from last year's squad.

Smart said the potential of the team is high. "I have told some people over the summer and all of their parents — if this team can come together from top to bottom then this group of ladies will be a great team that can accomplish their goals. I think we have good upperclassman leadership this year. Now they will have to bring it all together,"

The Chargers are coming off a 34-10 record and a fourth straight state tournament appearance. "I have high expectations for this group of ladies. This first week of practice has been great. I have thrown some changes at them at the beginning of the season and they have responded great. You can just see the focus and expectations every day that this group has for themselves," Smart said.

The team begins its season at 9 a.m. Saturday at the Amy Schutter Invitational Tournament at WHS. "We want to get off on a strong start at the Amy Schutter Memorial Tournament and then keep progressing," Smart said.