



# THE CHARGER

## Chargers perform with K-State band

Isabelle Stuhlsatz, Jacob Daley, Jessica Vanstory and Matthew Vanstory pose during rehearsal for the K-State All-Star band September 10. Photo by Jamie Rogers.



AJ Grutsch | editor in chief

From a high school gym to the Bill Snyder Family stadium, a few WHS students made a big step up in band class.

Wabaunsee graduates Jacob Daley and Jessica Vanstory and students Matthew Vanstory and Isabelle Stuhlsatz performed in the K-State All-Star band after hours of practice.

The K-State band is known for its spectacular halftime performances, which takes hours of effort to pull off. “Practicing was fun. The K-State students would help you out a lot with getting ready for the performance,” Matthew Vanstory said.

The students spent time practicing their music at home as well as marking their music for when they needed to march.

With all this time in the band, the students formed bonds with other musicians as well. “Basically everyone

within the trombone section I’ve become close friends with, marching band sort of forces everyone to get to know each other,” Daley said.

Daley is majoring in music composition and pursuing his passion of creating music for larger bands. He also has joined the fraternity Kappa Kappa Psi, which focuses on helping the band work more efficiently in areas like setting up and taking down equipment. They also run the Pride store which helps fund the band’s needs.

A large band is an enormous difference from WHS. K-State has more than 400 students in the marching band alone. “Being in a big band there are a lot more people to hear so it’s easier to hear your part, but in a small band it’s easier to fix what you mess up,” Stuhlsatz said.

The K-State All-Star marching band performed September 9 and 10, for a stadium of fans during the home K-State

game against Missouri.

Among them was high school band director Jamie Rogers. Rogers has been with WHS for four years and has taught some of the students throughout high school. He’s also familiar with the Wildcat band, having marched from 1995-98, and working on student staff for 2004-05. “It’s cool to see that some of my students continue playing their instruments past high school and it’s cool to see current students going above and beyond with opportunities and activities where they can open up their eyes to the possibilities of what’s beyond what they see in the classroom every day,” Rogers said.

The students recommend this experience for any one interested in music who wants to play and march for an audience. “It was a good experience and I feel like if you have the opportunity to do it, you should,” Matthew Vanstory said.

## Elementary principal works to continue district’s success

AJ Grutsch | editor in chief

Elementary principal Robert Schawo comes to USD 329 with promises of continuing the momentum the district already has.

Schawo has become the new Elementary school principal replacing Galen Craghead and Kari Kephart. Schawo, who has a degree in public administration and a degree in elementary education, will lead the Maple Hill and Alma elementary schools.

Schawo had previously applied for this position and had fallen in love with the administration and environment. “I remember just really liking the atmosphere particularly when I talked to the administration that was here at the time,” Schawo said.

Before Schawo was in Wabaunsee, he worked in Topeka for 23 years as an elementary teacher working with 2nd, 3rd and 5th grade students. Later he also found himself working with kindergartners for nine years. After that position he was the dean of students at Eisenhower Middle School. For nine years Schawo also worked as a history teacher for 6th and 8th graders. Schawo’s last position was as a dean of students at Highland Park Central elementary.

As Schawo works into his role as an elementary school principal, he plans to coordinate lesson plans between Maple Hill and Alma elementary. “One thing I know that the teachers have talked about is aligning some curriculum between the two schools and having a chance to work together a



little more,” he said.

Schawo also mentioned a primary goal of his is just to keep the momentum rolling with these schools in the district. He says that there is no big issue with these schools and it’s all about how we can run more efficiently.

With having a lot of experience in the education field, Schawo says listening and being able to build a good team are important qualities a principal can have. He adds that leadership and some academics are necessary too. He describes his job as helping the teachers do their jobs because the teachers are doing the most important work. “I’m there to set the stage and help that stuff work but they’re the ones actually doing it,” Schawo said.

Schawo makes it clear that he enjoys his work and is excited for this position as a whole. “I really care about education, I really care about kids, and I really care about people. I love this community and in this short amount of time I’ve seen nothing but positive things here and I’m committed to the long haul here and doing what I can to help this place go from what’s already really good to even better,” Schawo said.

## Journalism students produce issue at Kansas State Fair print competition

Sienna Jones and Jenna Donaldson | staff writers

Charger students spent an entire day at the Kansas State Fair last week, competing in the Scholastic Press Corps.

For the competition, a team of five students journalists gets about 10 hours to plan, interview, photograph, write and design a 4-page issue about that day at the fair. Teams receive two assigned stories and come up with two stories.

The Scholastic Press Corps contest, created by Hutchinson Community College journalism professor Janet Hallford, has been going for more than 20 years. In the first year, there were only 3 different teams. Now the competition includes up to 10 teams a session, spanning every weekday of the fair, with 32 print or broadcast teams competing this year.

Wabaunsee adviser Brendan Praeger started bringing students his second year at WHS. Now in their tenth year of com-

peting, Praeger said he enjoys the competition because it gives students a whole day to focus on journalism. “It’s a great experience for them to work as a team to plan and solve problems. It resembles real world journalism more than what we sometimes do in class.”

Todd Vogts, an assistant professor of media at Sterling College, oversees the competition. He brought high school students to the fair for more than ten years. Vogts has volunteered at the fair for five years, and has been coordinator since 2021. “The hands-on aspect, the deadline pressure, and learning opportunities are extremely appealing,” Vogts said. Overall the competition benefits everyone participating on many levels. Accompanying Vogts was Dedria Ashworth from Arlington, Kan. Ashworth taught journalism at Fairfield High School for 17 years. She has helped with this journalism competition for about 15 years, and said she loves working with

kids and seeing what they accomplish.

The Charger staff experienced exactly that. Junior Sophia Castillo wrote a story on the K-State Veterinary birthing clinic. She said the competition was stressful and exhausting but she learned how to get out of her comfort zone and talk to people. “It gives students a voice and a better writing foundation,” Castillo said. She learned lots of new things and ate good food. Castillo experienced a learning curve as she had to work under pressure, and a deadline. Most of all she had to be confident in her work.

Each team was given agricultural prompts, and the Charger team drew the honey stand and pig racing.

When the team was deciding topics, Heather Baker was eager to write about the stand. She learned about all the different uses of honey and the importances of bees. Her favorite part of the honey stand was the honey sticks. She said the

competition was a good experience and not as difficult as she thought it would be. Baker said she enjoys writing and representing her school. She was really comfortable speaking with people about her story. Her only challenges she faced were starting and ending her article.

Junior Ava Meinhardt chose to do her story on llamas and alpacas. Her favorite part of the learning experience was finding out the difference between the two animals and how they are taken care of. Meinhardt’s biggest takeaway was being taught about the new information that she never knew. Meinhardt’s biggest challenges were adjusting to her story since most of what she learned was just informational things. She had to report what she saw. “The competition was very informational, fun and new since I’ve never done it before.” She learned to get out of her comfort zone, as she talked to many people and learned about their interests and information.

The only senior on the team was AJ Grutsch. Grutsch covered the competition last year, but participated this year for the first time. He covered the pig races. “I think the topic is really exciting, and obviously fun to watch,” Grutsch said. Besides just the pigs, Grutch enjoyed other aspects of the show, “Brother Elroy was probably the best part actually, how he hyped up the crowd. The whole skit was witty and entertaining” he said. “Last year was fun, more carefree, and I ate a lot of corn dogs,” he said. This year proved to be more straining yet more fun than his junior year. “Along with the pressures of writing and being judged, this year was a lot more fun as a competitor.”

While results of the competition won’t be revealed for about a month, Praeger said the team’s work was solid. “They planned well and were very proactive. I think they produced some solid work.”

The team’s paper is available at [whscharger.com](http://whscharger.com).