



# MHS *ex*PRESS

## Teachers are the driving force of education

Madison Contreras and  
Caleb Kimbro  
Writers

Escalating since the 1990s during Oklahoma's teachers' strike, the need for Emergency Teaching Certificates (ETC) increased by 35% just between the 2017-18 and 2018-19 school years.

An ETC allows a person to teach for two years without a state teaching license.

After the two years have concluded, the emergency certified teacher is required to earn his or her teaching license to continue the career.

While put into federal law in 1989, emergency teaching certificates weren't actively put into use until 2010.

Throughout the last nine years, a 9,400% increase in the need of ETC's has occurred, leading to a drastic change in schools.

Nine years ago, in 2010, just 32 ETC's were issued.

Now, a record of 3,038 teachers have been issued throughout the past year, according to reportings by *CNHI's Capitol Bureau*.

Of the nearly 3,000 emergency certified teachers employed during the 2018-19 school year in Oklahoma, only 12.5% have received their license to teach, according to *Enid News & Eagle*.

The average has drastically lowered, as three years prior to the 2018-19 school year, more than half of the emergency certified teachers employed achieved the requirements to become a licensed teacher.

Defying the status quo, Marlow Public Schools emergency certified teachers are working to earn their teaching license.

Establishing the importance of MPS teachers, superintendent George Coffman explained why emergency certified teachers are an important asset to Marlow.



Pictured above is Shawn Hamock supervising Kaden Willson.

Taken by Luke Davis

"We're going to continue to look for the very best candidates for our teaching positions, and sometimes the best candidates are emergency certified teachers," said Coffman. "A lot of times, the emergency certified are the people who have put in the time and done the things they need to do to be the very best."

Although 13% of teachers in Oklahoma were emergency certified in 2018, and the number is gradually rising, many still choose to traditionally earn their state teaching license.

Teaching licenses are credited to those who have completed education courses, a student teaching course and state-mandated teaching examinations.

This year, Marlow High School has had the opportunity to work with student teacher Shawn Hamock.

Hamock is currently attending Oklahoma State University to complete his Bachelor of Science in Agricultural Education degree.

The student teacher program, a portion of an education degree, consists of a week-long orientation at OSU, followed by fifteen weeks in an approved student teaching facility to gain in the field, student teaching experience.

Expressing why he did not pursue an emergency teaching certificate, agricultural science student teacher Hamock, under the teaching of AG teacher Derek Mitchell, described his drive to be a teacher and help students reach their goals.

"I just wanted to finish the way I started," Hamock said. "My goal was to finish earning my license through school, and I wanted to complete my goal. I just miss helping kids achieve their goals."

Pulling from her own experience as a student teacher, Assistant Superintendent Brenda Parker-Tillian explained the benefits that Hamock is obtaining for being a part of a student-

teacher program.

"Being a student teacher from a student teacher program makes Shawn's experience richer because he has a semester at Marlow to sharpen his craft in teaching," said Parker. "He is going through on the job training program where he is working with students, in the field. You don't have the luxury of having another certified teacher in the classroom when you have an ETC. With Hamock in this program, he has Mr. Mitchell pointing him in the right direction."

As approximately 87% of teachers, including emergency certified, continue to stay in their line of profession, and students continue to aspire to become licensed teachers, the state of Oklahoma will see the outcome of their impact as the years advance.

## Foreign Language Club dreams big

Hailey Sloan  
Writer

The Marlow Foreign Language Club (FLC) held its first meeting on Wednesday, Aug. 28 to discuss their hopes and plans for the 2019-20 school year.

This year, Marlow's new Spanish teacher, Whitney Broussard, has big dreams for FLC.

"We plan to raise money for a field trip in the spring and hope to reinstate a program to teach Spanish at the elementary," said Broussard. "We also plan to outreach in Nicaragua and sell items made by local artisans to help improve working conditions."

Broussard's friendliness and outgoing personality has inspired kids to join and get involved in the Spanish background, with one new member being senior Colbey Calloway.

"Mrs. Broussard is very nice, and her enthusiasm made the club look extra fun," said Calloway.

Having been in FLC for two years, Junior Rachel Retherford spoke of the goals that are hoped to be achieved within the organization.

"I hope to bring a positive light, my knowledge of the language, and the Spanish culture to the club," Retherford said.

Sophomore Miranda Martinez recently got involved with FLC with hopes of reaching out to others.

"I am going to get out, do more, learn more and teach others," Martinez said.

According to *Statisticatlas.com*, 56.1% of Oklahoma's population spoke Spanish excellently, while the other 43.9% had little knowledge of the language.

Through fundraising, the Foreign Language Club hopes to add Spanish all around the school.

FLC plans on hosting Spanish movie nights, inviting a Latin dance instructor and celebrating Spanish holidays.

"The main use of the funds will be to plan a field trip in which we can deepen our understanding of Spanish culture and the use of language in a natural environment," says Broussard.

Broussard explained, "Spanish has allowed me to work with children of different cultures, and it has given me a lifelong skill and job I never dreamed of."

Giving MHS students opportunities to learn new cultural backgrounds, FLC hopes to continue to grow their organization and introduce new ways of spreading the Spanish language.

## Senior Spreads Positivity on Sidelines

Chelsea Strutton and  
Bralyn Stallons  
Writers

Helping along the sidelines at every game, senior Rebekah McPherson holds the title of football manager.

Supplying water and ensuring that everyone is in the right place, McPherson is a leading contributor in the behind the scenes process of the Outlaw football team.

After experiencing McPherson's hard work and dedication firsthand, head coach Matt Weber expressed his appreciation for McPherson.

"Rebekah organizes the other managers and makes sure that all our equipment and water is ready before practice actually starts," said Weber. "She does the exact same things on game nights."

Known for her cheerful personality, McPherson provides



REBEKAH MCPHERSON

constant support to the players during practice and is acknowledged for her positive attitude on and off the field.

Senior left guard and defensive tackle Gavin Kizarr elaborated on McPherson's importance to the team.

"She has a really great attitude," said Kizarr. "She does anything that we need her to as a manager."

McPherson not only encourages the football team but also supports the water girls.

Sophomore water girl Kirsten Nunley vocalized McPherson's

leading role in her job as the football manager.

"She helps us get everything organized and keeps everything clean, which is helpful," said Nunley.

The process of being football manager was explained by McPherson herself in a humorous way.

"I have to fill the water, keep the players hydrated, and fix helmets if they need it," said McPherson. "I'm kind of like their mother."

McPherson believes that through being the football manager, she has learned responsibility and acceptance of herself for who she is.

After high school, McPherson plans to attend either Cameron University or Southwestern Oklahoma State University to major in elementary education.

McPherson will continue to work hard to achieve her goals and spread positivity wherever she can reach.

## Outlaws kick off the football season

Chloe Brooks  
Writer

Running out of the spirit tunnel for the first time this season, the Marlow High School football team opened up their season on Friday, Sept. 6 against the Chickasha Chicks.

The Chicks took an early lead that didn't let up as the Outlaws lost a nail-biter, 20-7.

Despite the loss, some of the seniors such as Tag Allen, Sam Ivory, and Peyton Ladon showed flashes of having a breakthrough senior season, along with the defense making a number of crucial stops.

Moments such as these look to be a key factor in the team's success moving forward.

Sophomore Jace Gilbert,

quarterback and kicker for the Outlaws, believes that the team will let the errors in the game motivate them to enhance their skills and give them excitement to overcome early adversity.

"Offensively, we need to take care of the ball better and just keep finding ways to put drives together," Gilbert said. "We showed a lot of fight. Our guys never gave up and kept fighting. We are excited for the season, but more importantly, we are just ready to get back to work."

The team's strength, both mentally and physically, has given them the ability to look onward towards the games in the future.

Senior Seth Aguilera, defensive end and offensive tackle for the Outlaws, witnessed the abili-

ties the team has that hold an advantage over any opponent the team will face this season.

"What our offense brings for an advantage is that I believe we are better than we were last year, and defensively we're pretty solid on the run game and passing game," Aguilera described. "The rest of the season looks very promising. We will keep fighting and working hard at practice to get better."

Experiencing a loss early in the season is believed to prepare and push the team to finish as successful as they are projected to be.

Ready to achieve what the Outlaws know is coming in due time, the MHS football team will be traveling to Cache this Friday night to begin play at 7:00 p.m.



Taken by Lanie Leach

Sophomore Korie Kizarr running towards the finish line at the Arbuckle Conference meet on Tuesday, September 4. Kizarr placed first in the girls one mile run individually. The boys cross country team placed first overall, and the girls' team received second place in the Arbuckle Conference meet. The next cross country meet will be Friday, September 14 at Cameron University in Lawton.

Student of the Week

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The MHS express is the student newspaper of Marlow High School. It is published every Thursday during the fall and spring semesters, except during holidays.

The MHS exPRESS encourages comments from the student body, faculty, and administration in the form of letters to the editor. All letters must include a name for consideration; however, the name may be withheld upon request. Letters should be sent to Room 105 at MHS.

The opinions expressed within the signed editorials are the opinions of the writers; the opinions expressed in unsigned, boxed editorials are the opinions of the staff. Neither is necessarily the opinion of the high school administration, staff, or faculty.