

# District News

August 2017

Renwick students, staff and patrons will benefit from several hires of educators who will help the district in its mission to offer excellence in education. New to the district for the 2017-2018 school year are as follows:

**Andale High School:**

Sara Gomez, Spanish teacher  
 Gwen Hammerschmidt, history teacher

Dallas Krehbiel, industrial arts teacher

Cheyenne Moyer, agriculture/FFA teacher  
 Tyler Ryan, physical education teacher

**Colwich Elementary:**

Hailey Becker, third grade teacher  
 Mick Williams, Social Studies teacher

**Garden Plain Elementary:**

Amy Driskill, GPES & AES Counselor  
 JoAnna Lilly, third grade

**St. Marks Elementary:**

Michelle Randolph, math teacher  
 Paige Towey, first grade teacher  
 Brayden Whitaker, SMES & CES band teacher



Gomez



Krehbiel



Hammerschmidt



Moyer



Ryan



Becker



Williams



Driskill



Lilly



Randolph



Towey



Whitaker

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## Superintendent's Corner: Welcome back

I am excited to welcome our students back for the 2017-2018 school year as staff gears up for another successful year at Renwick. I have no doubt both parents and students are ready for the year to begin as well.

I hope the new online enrollment option improved your back-to-school enrollment experience. There were a few glitches on our end, but the feedback received found the majority of parents appreciated the change. We will work hard in continuing to improve this process moving forward.

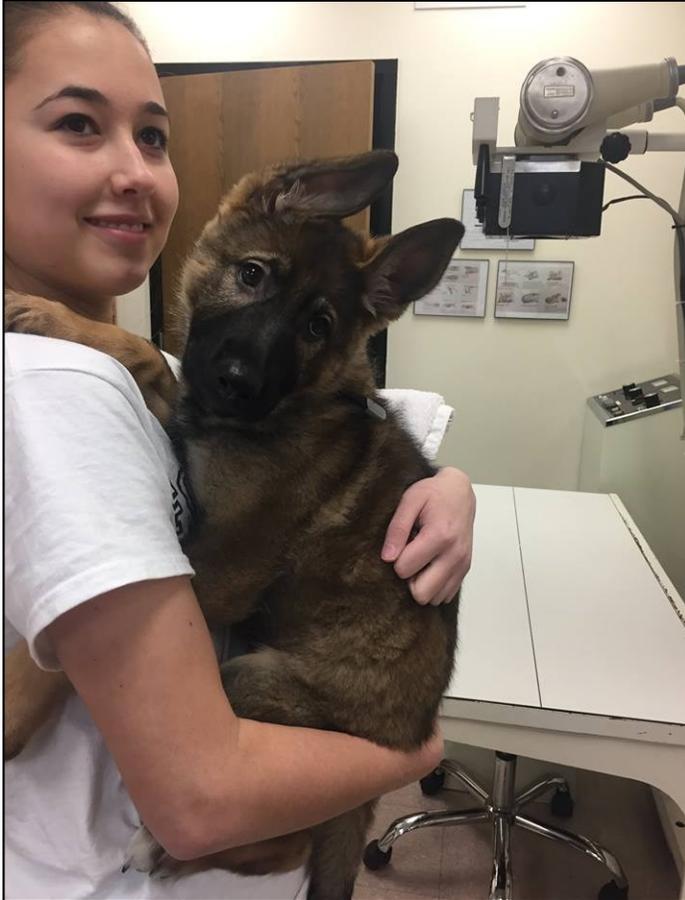
Our district is fortunate to have hired Heidi Wells as its new food service director. Heidi

comes to Renwick from the Kansas State Department of Food Service and Kansas State University. She has a wealth of knowledge and experience that will transform our food service department. Make sure to check out tips and other important information she plans



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# PT Conferences to focus on career cruising



Internships – like the one Garden Plains High School student Alena Regier participated in last school year at Indian Hills Animal Clinic – are one component of the new Career Cruising program. The curriculum better prepares students for their professional goals.

## Format similar, but parents will get closer look at career program

**A**s parents prepare their children for the upcoming school year, USD 267 is looking far beyond the upcoming school calendar. The district not only focuses on the day-to-day

learning of each student, but strategizes how to prepare them for the world beyond the classroom doors.

USD 267 introduced career cruising in 2016-2017 – a curriculum to help students consider career options and areas of study that interest them and enable them to achieve their professional goals.

Parents will get a first-hand look at career cruising and how it affects their child during a new format of parent/teacher conferences this fall. While conferences will still be offered in an

evening and a day setting, the district is asking parents to bring along their children – especially those in 6-12 grades -- to the career cruising-focused discussions.

“We want parents to be introduced to the concept of career cruising, and to be involved with the new individual plans of study,” said Mindy Bruce, assistant superintendent and curriculum director.

Individualized plans of study encourage students and help parents assist their child in planning for life after high school.

“We want them to be asking questions such as, ‘What should my child be taking in high school,’

‘Are they college bound, career bound ... should we look at a 2-year associates degree or certificate programs?’”

Setting on a career path can be overwhelming for anyone – much less a middle or high school student. Career cruising helps students consider all available options and find the best fit.

“Career cruising will give the students lots of opportunities to explore what they are good at, interested in and a variety of careers that may match their desires,” Bruce said.

Parent Teacher Conferences for the fall semester will be the evening of Wednesday, Oct. 4 and during the day on Thursday, Oct. 5.

*“We want parents to be introduced to the concept of career cruising, and to be involved with the new individual plans of study.”*

Mindy Bruce  
Assistant Superintendent/  
Curriculum Director



Like us, share our latest happenings. Follow Renwick on social media.

# Stanhope named AHS Asst. Principal/AD

As a former collegiate athlete, Steve Stanhope can appreciate what it means to earn a new assignment on the court or field. The educator steps into a new role this school year after spending the past 14 years teaching and coaching. Stanhope was recently named the new Assistant Principal/Athletic Director at Andale High School and is ready to get to work.

*How do you feel athletics enriches the overall educational experience for students?*

Athletics are an extension of the classroom. Sports provide a platform for student athletes to learn many life lessons such as hard work, team work, perseverance, and commitment to name a few. The relationships our student athletes develop working as a team with others and coaches toward a common goal can last forever.

*What do you hope students gain from the opportunity to compete for their school as*

*an individual or on a team?*

An understanding that hard work pays off and the more energy and effort you put into being successful the more you get out of competing. I also feel our student athletes are very fortunate to compete for schools that are so supportive and have so much community pride as our schools in Renwick.

*What goals do you have for the year?*

That I can work with every coach in every program to ensure they have the tools and resources to be successful and compete for state championships. I am very excited to be able to help all the student athletes in their experience competing as an Indian.

*When you're not cheering for the Andale Indians or Garden Plain Owls, who is your favorite team/sport to watch?*

For me, I enjoy watching sports year round. Who I root for really depends upon the sports season. During football season I

cheer on the Pittsburg State Gorillas and the Kansas City Chiefs. When basketball arrives I love watching the KU Jayhawks and in the spring and summer I root for the Royals.

I can honestly say I got into education and coaching because of the many coaches and teachers that I had in high school at Andale. Because of my positive experiences, I was fortunate to be able to attend Pittsburg State University and play football for the Gorillas.

I am extremely excited to start this new career, and can't think of a better place to get started. Our sports programs are known for their success, and it is in large part due to our coaches, kids, parents, and community.



**Stanhope**



## Don Gruenbacher Andale High School 1985

*Professor and Department Head of Electrical and Computer Engineering at Kansas State University*

*What degrees have you received since your graduation from Renwick?* I received my B.S. (1989), M.S. (1991), and Ph.D. (1994), all in electrical engineering, from K-State. I also took graduate courses from Johns Hopkins University.

*What do you enjoy the most about your*

*chosen profession?* I really enjoy working with students in a university setting. It is a refreshing and invigorating environment.

*Was there a teacher who made a positive impact you or helped direct your path when you were a Renwick student? How did they inspire you?* Actually there were two different teachers. Mrs. Adams was my math teacher in 6-8th grade, and she continually pushed me to keep advancing my skills. At Andale High, Mr. Danler was my teacher for both chemistry and physics, and he always inspired us to be creative, explore our ambitions and discover what got us excited. Mr. Danler was certainly a huge factor for my decision to study engineering at K-State.

*Any advice to current Renwick students preparing for college?* I believe all students should know their college and career goals can be achieved, but it often requires long-term planning and hard

work. It is important to find something you really enjoy and that also has good career opportunities. Follow your passion and you will find great success.

*What difference did your time as a student at Renwick make for you?* Not only do I feel like I received a great academic experience, but the athletic, band, performing arts, student council and many other activities that the schools encourage ALL students to participate in is truly special. These experiences taught me many life skills. Experiences that I would likely would not have had at a larger school. Thank you, Renwick schools.

**Do you know someone who is Renwick Made? Help us share their story by emailing [anne.maxwell@usd267.com](mailto:anne.maxwell@usd267.com).**



## Curriculum tool offers personalized instruction

Each school year, Renwick educators strive to meet the individual learning needs of each student. A new curriculum tool should aid educators in their efforts as the 2017-2018 school year begins.

The district purchased the i-Ready curriculum this past spring and will implement the K-12 adaptive diagnostic for reading and mathematics this fall. i-Ready pinpoints “student needs down to the sub-skill level,” and tracks students throughout the year to monitor individual progress.

So what does this mean for students and teachers?

“i-Ready is such a powerful tool for teachers because it has both the diagnostic and the curriculum pieces in one



place for teachers,” said Mindy Bruce, assistant superintendent and curriculum director for the district. “We’ve had diagnostic programs before, but then had to use different types of learning systems to try and address students’ needs.

“This will make our curriculum more efficient and effective.”

Bruce said i-Ready activities and learning platform engages students in lessons at their particular learning level.

Parents can then see results with individual reports at conference time.

Built to address the rigor of the new standards, i-Ready helps students

make real gains. i-Ready collects a broad spectrum of rich data on student

abilities that identifies areas where a student is struggling, measures growth across a student's career, supports teacher-led differentiated instruction, and provides a personalized instructional path within a single online solution.

Colwich Elementary used the i-Ready system as a pilot program last year.

i-Ready is currently being used this school year by approximately 10 percent of all K-8 students nationwide, serving more than 4.3 million students across all 50 states.

Additionally, more than 1 million students interact with the program every school day.

## Like, share and show your #RenwickPride

Maybe you’re a parent. Or a patron.

You might have children who are students in the district or are a former student yourself. No matter what category you fall into, you know what kind of an impact Renwick has made in your life.

Don’t keep it to yourself.

We want you to follow us on Facebook and Twitter — and then share the love.

Like us, retweet us and share any of our posts on our Renwick USD 267 page and help get the word out about all the fabulous news that’s happening in our classrooms and extra-curricular activities. Share our posts and you could win free entry into an athletic or artistic event during the school year (*one winner selected each month*).

It’s all part of spreading the good news about Renwick.

## Superintendent’s message *(continued from page 1)*

to share in upcoming issues of the newsletter.

I am pleased to announce USD 267 is one of the participants in the Kansas State Department of Education’s school redesign project. Colwich Elementary School and Garden Plain High School have been selected to be a part of the Gemini Program. During this school year they will be developing new ideas, strategies and plans that will allow every student to obtain what they need from their education experience.

We are proud to have been asked to join this program, and we look forward to the challenge.

The new agriculture and FFA program is ready for year one implementation. Cheyenne Moyer, who will serve as the program’s educator, has been working non-stop since she was hired last spring. Preparation included repurposing the former band and home economics building to house the FFA program. Thanks to all of the community members who volunteered time and labor to make this possible.

The program was recently named a recipient of a \$25,000 grant from Monsanto. This honor will enable us to purchase additional supplies in the first year that otherwise would have delayed.

Thanks to the 18 farmers who nominated us for this grant, and to Cheyenne, who completed and submitted the application.

I can’t tell you how much I appreciate what we have in Renwick. The passion and support of our parents and patrons remains one of the district’s most valuable resources. Our continued efforts ensure Renwick will remain a great place to educate students. This is my eighth year as your superintendent, and I thank you for allowing me to serve you in this role.

Feel free to reach out to me with any questions or concerns.