

February Monthly Mustang Staff



Sherry Retzlaff is a Guidance Counselor at Rushville Elementary and the High School. In addition to her counseling duties Mrs. Retzlaff is a co-sponsor of the National Honor Society and senior class. Mrs. Retzlaff graduated from Chadron State College, where she received her Bachelors of Science Degree in Education and went on to complete a Masters in Guidance K-12. Mrs. Retzlaff and her husband Kerry and have two adult children, Taryn and Lacey, four grandchildren with another grandchild due in March. In her spare time Mrs. Retzlaff loves gardening and quilting. When asked what is something she is passionate about, Mrs. Retzlaff answered, "I am passionate about turning out young adults who contribute to our corner of the world and who are productive citizens." In regards to her

strength as a teacher, Mrs. Retzlaff replied, "I feel my strength as an educator is that I have a good sense of humor." According to Mrs. Retzlaff a successful school year is, "One where risks are taken, mistakes are learned from, and students grow.."

When asked about her favorite school memory Mrs. Retzlaff mentioned that, "I have quite a few favorite memories. I loved teaching 6th grade, time spent in the rural schools, and working with middle and high school students." When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, "I don't have a classroom, but I truly care about the well being of every single one of them."

If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Retzlaff had was, "More teachers, more money which would lead to more class offerings." Finally when Mrs. Retzlaff was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She replied, "I would have dinner with President Trump and ask him what covfefe means??"



Mary Thies is a 2nd grade teacher at Gordon Elementary School. Mr. Thies is a graduate of Gordon High School and earned her Bachelors of Science in Elementary Education degree in 1996 from Chadron State College. She then went on to earn her Master of Arts in Education specializing in Reading from the University of Nebraska in Kearney in 2009. Mrs. Thies is married to her wonderful husband Jay and they have an awesome son named Jackson. The Thies family lives in the country right in the middle between Rushville and Hay Springs. They own a small farm where

they raise lots of animals. Mrs. Thies has many hobbies she likes to do from crocheting to gardening. Of course her son keeps her very busy! When asked what was something Mr. Thies was passionate about she replied, "I would have to say that I am passionate about my students and their learning. I want to make their experience in my classroom a memorable one. I hope that they take what they have learned in my classroom and apply it as they continue on with their education." When asked about her strength as a teacher Mrs. Thies stated "A strength that I have as a teacher is to be flexible. Being flexible with my students and fellow colleagues I work with is important. Another strength would be that I care a lot about my students education. Staying current with what is new and bringing that to the classroom in a fun and exciting way is important to me as well." According to Mrs. Thies a successful school year would be, "Seeing the growth my students have made throughout the year academically and socially. Knowing my students will be ready for their next challenge would also show success! When it comes to school memories, Mrs. Thies mentioned that, "My favorite school memories would be in 4th grade when I would prepare my students for the 1888 school field trip. Then we would actually participate in reenacting a school day of a pioneer student. Also, the many times I helped with the "Haunted" hallway during our family fun nights was also my fav!" When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, I would like my students to leave my classroom successful, ready for the next grade, and feeling that they were part of a team." If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Thies had was, "To make sure that class sizes were small, two or more teachers for each grade, and provide our students with the latest in technology. Maybe even do some updating in our school and playground!" Finally when Mrs. Thies was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She answered, "I would have dinner with my dad. The one question I would ask him would be -" What do you think about America today?" I am sure I would get an ear full!."



Amy Schmidt is the 7th and 8th grade science teacher at Gordon-Rushville Middle School. In addition to her classroom duties Mrs. Schmidt sponsors Student Council, Quiz Bowl and is assisting this year with HS Track. Mrs. Schmidt received her Associate in Arts degree at Northeast Community College and her Bachelors Degree in Middle School Education with minors in Science, Mathematics, and Social Sciences at the University of Nebraska at Kearney.

Mrs. Schmidt and her husband Todd have been together since they were 14. They have been married for 19 years. They have two daughters, Maddee, a sophomore at GRHS and Lillee is in 6th grade at the middle school. They have two cats, two dogs, a fish, 4 ducks, and about 20 chickens. Mrs. Schmidt is still waiting for it to be legal to raise an otter... When asked what is something she is passionate about Mrs. Schmidt answered, "I am passionate about food... baking, cooking, and eating! I relish preparing meals for my family and friends and, especially, my daughters' friends. I find baking very relaxing and look forward to snowy days off when baking is a must.." In regards to her strength as a teacher, Mrs. Schmidt replied, "My relationships with my students is a strength in my teaching. I enjoy listening to students' stories related (and at times unrelated) to our topics in the classroom." According to Mrs. Schmidt a successful school year, "Would include my students learning how to connect science in their daily lives and to see all the roles science can play in their future ." A favorite school memory for Mrs. Schmidt was , "Tommy Bragg's celebratory dance after his team knocked over the 100 point bottle in exploratory class.." When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, "I want students to be a better version of themselves. I want them to be kind to one another and think for themselves." If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Schmidt had was, "I would have up-to-date technology throughout the district including one-to-one classrooms." Finally when Mrs. Schmidt was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She replied, "I would love to have dinner with my Grandpa Dean. I sit at my dinner table, which was his, and think of him reading the paper and drinking coffee in a white tank with baseball on the tv at maximum volume. I would ask him what would be the one thing he would have done differently when he was alive?"



April Schneider is the 4th grade teacher at Rushville Elementary. In addition to her classroom duties Mrs. Schneider is the Middle School Girls Basketball and assistant High School Track coach. Mrs. Schneider graduated from Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education degree. Mrs. Schneider and her husband Max live in Hay Springs with their two children. Duncan who is two and Nora who is one. Mrs. Schneider added "They keep us both very busy". When they get time away they like to go hunting and fishing. Mrs. Schneider also likes to read and enjoy time with her children. In regards to her strength as a teacher, Mrs. Schneider replied, "I think some of my

strengths are gaining positive relationships with my students and always trying to make my students laugh. I am also very positive and have lots of patience. ”

According to Mrs. Schneider a successful school year is, “Knowing my students are prepared for the next school year and feel like they can be successful. .”

A favorite school memory for Mrs. Schneider was, “My favorite school memory was winning the state championship in basketball when I was a junior.”

When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, “I hope that students take away knowing that I care about them and that they can always come to me if they need anything..”

Finally when Mrs. Schneider was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She replied, “If I could eat dinner with one person it would be my aunt Kathy. I would ask her who was your favorite niece?”