

October 2018 Monthly Mustang Staff



Shauna Beguin is the Guidance Counselor at Gordon-Rushville Middle School. Ms. Beguin has a Bachelor of Science Degree in Elementary Education & Early Childhood Education from CSC and a Master of Arts in School Counseling from CSC. Ms. Beguin has three wonderful children; Bailey, Teale and Trace, two awesome sons-in-law; Loran and Ty, and five perfect grandchildren; Tatum, Tarryn, Tegan, Taylor, and Cleo. In her free time, she loves spending time with family and to doing landscaping and gardening. When asked what was something Ms. Beguin was passionate about she replied, “I am passionate about reminding children how special and unique each one of them

are. We live in a very harsh world, in which, our children are too often the victims. I hope I'm able to lift them up and help them see how important they are.” When asked about her strength as a teacher Ms. Beguin stated, “I try to find the positive side of situations. I can't change what has happened, but I can give encouragement and hope which may change the overall outcome.” According to Ms. Beguin, “A successful year is the result of teachers and staff working together with an open mind to meet each child's needs and help that child become the best, well-rounded person he/she can be.” When it comes to school memories, Ms. Beguin mentioned that “One of my favorite school memories took place about 7 years ago. Under the guidance of the 6th-grade teacher, Casey Walker, our student body put together an awesome Lip Sync. It was a wonderful example of teamwork.” When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, “I hope every child I meet leaves me knowing how important they are to me and I will do whatever I can to help make their life what they wish for it to be.” If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Ms. Beguin had was, “If I had a magic wand, I would build a house large enough for me to care for my students who need a home where they are allowed to be children and treated with love and kindness.” Finally, when Ms. Beguin 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 give almost anything to have one more day with my mom. Time ran out too quickly and I have so many things I still need to learn from her.”



Alysha Slama is the Title 1 teacher at Gordon Elementary School. Mrs. Slama graduated from Black Hills State University in 2004 with an Elementary Education degree and in 2015, she graduated with a Masters in Reading from Concordia University.

Mrs. Slama and her husband Casey have four wonderful children, Logan, Addison, Olivia, and Luke. They are always on the go following their children in their activities. When asked what is something she is passionate about Mrs. Slama answered, "I am passionate about my family; immediate and extended. It is wonderful to have people around me who will be there whenever needed. It is important that my children learn these family values ." When asked what was a strength she had as a teacher, Mrs. Slama replied "I am always looking for ways to improve myself as a teacher for the students. I love finding new ideas to keep it fresh. The students are always making me better. They keep me on my toes, keeping me looking for new ideas to meet their needs. The kids bring something new each day. That is the best part of my job." According to Mrs. Slama, "A successful school year is seeing my students make growth and feel success as they realize all they can accomplish. Students love to know they are improving. To see the excitement in their eyes when they meet or surpass goals throughout the year is more than rewarding." When it comes to school memories Mrs. Slama mentioned that "My favorite school memory is developing pictures for the school annual. It was fascinating learning how to crop and develop the black and white images to fit page by page in the yearbook." Mrs. Slama went on to say that, "I want students to take away a love of reading. Reading is a lifelong, necessary skill no matter what you plan to do in the future. I want students to be able to read for a purpose and for enjoyment." If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Slama had was, "I would love to have standardized based report cards. This involves measuring students' proficiency in well-defined course objectives. The standards-based grade book could give a wealth of information about a class or student to help the teacher adjust instruction." Finally, when Mrs. Slama 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, "My great friends Leigh and Shana. I would ask: How is life and what vacation are we taking together?!"



Bev Wellnitz, is a paraprofessional in the library at Rushville Elementary School. Bev graduated from Gordon High School. She attended Western Nebraska Community College and received an Associate of Applied Science degree in Accounting. Mrs. Wellnitz is married to Keith Wellnitz. Keith is a tech with Great Plains Communications. Their daughter, Becca, is a junior at Chadron State College. She is majoring in Human Biology and will go on to get her doctorate in Physical Therapy. Their son, Ryan, is a senior at Gordon Rushville High

School. Ryan plans on attending Western Dakota Tech next year and majoring in Computer Aided Design. The family enjoys camping and spending time together as a family. Bev's hobbies include counted cross stitch, crafts, reading, and baking. When asked what she was passionate about, Mrs. Wellnitz said, "I believe that you should treat others with respect and kindness." One of Bev's strengths as a paraeducator is that she likes to find what makes each student special. She feels if you can increase a student's self-confidence, they will be more apt to try challenging problems without becoming frustrated. In regards to a favorite school memory, Mrs. Wellnitz replied "I went to Clinton Grade School which had students from kindergarten through eighth grade. At Christmas, Pauline Kearns would come in and play the piano for the Christmas Program. It was a fun time to sing together with all the other students in the school." The one thing that Mrs. Wellnitz would like the students to remember about her is "I would like the students to remember me as being a kind person who was always willing to help them succeed." Mrs. Wellnitz feels that the best thing about her job is, "I love when students are excited about reading and are able to find a book that really interests them."

If Mrs. Wellnitz had total control what is the one thing she would do to improve the Gordon-Rushville Schools? She said, "I would create a STEM program and Makerspace for the library. These programs would encourage students to use their imagination and creativity to create projects."

When it comes to having dinner with one person, living or deceased, Mrs. Wellnitz said, "I would have dinner with my Grandma Mulcahy. She was a wonderful storyteller and I would record her stories for future generations. I feel that our society would benefit from some of the family values and teamwork ethics from our elders."