

September 2018 Monthly Mustang Staff



Marla Ledgerwood teaches 6th-grade Computers and Careers at Gordon-Rushville Middle School. Mrs. Ledgerwood has a Bachelor's Degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney and a Master's Degree from Chadron State College. Mrs. Ledgerwood has two step-daughters and four grandchildren with her husband Steve. When she is not busy in the classroom Mrs. Ledgerwood enjoys reading, traveling and baking. When asked what was something Mr. Ledgerwood was passionate about she replied, "Getting people to understand that being kind and helpful is the best way to live." When asked about her strength as a teacher Mr. Ledgerwood stated, "Being flexible is my greatest strength as a teacher. It lessens my stress and helps the day go more smoothly when I can just "go with the flow." According to Mrs. Ledgerwood, "A successful school year is when students learn the content area but also realize that I care and value them as a person. "When it comes to school memories, Mr. Ledgerwood mentioned that, "My favorite memories revolved around extracurricular activities. Early morning speech meets and late night prom decorating helped build relationships with students that I will always cherish." 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 know that they can be successful, but in achieving success, they should not hurt others." If she had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Ledgerwood had was, "I would build a fine arts complex with a theater because we have strong speech and drama programs that could utilize such a facility. " Finally, when Mrs. Ledgerwood 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'd like to dine with Jesus and ask him how he could forgive all the people that did him wrong."



Brittney Kearns is the 2nd Grade Teacher at Rushville Elementary School. Mrs. Kearns attended Colorado State University where she obtained a Bachelor of Science in Human Development and Family Studies degree and the University of Nebraska of Kearney where she received a Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education. Mrs. Kearns and her husband Zach moved back to Rushville 10 years ago to help on the family ranch and to raise their family. They have 4 beautiful children. Jaxon-10 years old, Kennedy-7 years old, Maddox-3

years old and Krue-5 months old. The Kearns family stays busy attending their kids' activities as well as showing cattle. Mrs. Kearns enjoys running when time allows, camping at the lake and spending time with family and friends. Being a Colorado girl she loves her Bronco football team.

When asked what is something she is passionate about Mrs. Kearns answered, "I am passionate about teaching children both at school and my own. Seeing them grow, in their understanding of knowledge, themselves and the world around them. Seeing the look on their faces when they finally understand something they have been struggling with. They bring joy and craziness and everything in-between and I wouldn't change it for the world." When asked what was a strength she had as a teacher, Mrs. Kearns replied "I feel one of my greatest strengths is compassion. I hurt when my students hurt and rejoice when my students rejoice. I understand that life happens and that the kids I teach do not control their home lives. I believe in second chances, but use mistakes to teach life lessons. I offer advice, counseling, and mentoring when necessary. I understand that school is sometimes the safest place a kid can be." According to Mrs. Kearns, "A successful school year would thrive on a positive school climate. One in which students are engaged and strive to do well, actively participate in the learning process and take responsibility for their school work. Where students feel they can go to teachers or support staff for help when needed, for both academic and social problems. Communication between staff members, students and families is also a huge factor in a successful school year." When it comes to school memories Mrs. Kearns mentioned that "Some of my favorite school memories were the many athletic games and events that I participated in. There is something about the ties of athletes that I will forever remember. Being an athlete made me a better person both on and off the court. It gave me a sense of pride, accomplishment and work ethic in which I have to say has helped shape me into the person I am today." Mrs. Kearns went on to say that, "If there is one thing I would want my students to take away from being in my classroom it would be how to share kindness and feel loved. Kids come from all walks of life, as a teacher, giving that first hug in the morning can be crucial in the mindset of that child for the day. Teaching kindness will have far more effects on promoting successful kids than any other subject I teach them." If she had total control of

Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mrs. Kearns had was, "I would choose to have more paraprofessionals available. Many people do not realize the value of these staff members. I can't even fathom how much more learning my students would obtain with a few extra willing bodies! We are blessed to have amazing para's in our building, and by doubling them, we would be unstoppable in the amount of learning that we could accomplish in a year! Finally, when Mrs. Kearns 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 choose to have dinner with the late First Lady, Barbara Bush. I would ask her what she feels is the most important thing you can teach a child and why.



Claire Russell is a 3rd Grade Teacher at Gordon Elementary School. Mrs. Russell graduated in 2018 from Morningside College with a degree in elementary education and an endorsement in K-6 reading. Mrs. Russell lives in Gordon with her husband, Kaden. Kaden currently works as a farm hand south of Gordon. In their free time, they enjoy being with their family and friends. They also love going to the lake and fishing whenever possible. When asked what was something Mrs. Hunter was passionate about she replied, "I am passionate about my students and what motivates them. I believe that my motivating my students to want to learn and be at school is the

first step to engaging them." When asked about her strengths as a teacher Mrs. Russell stated, "My biggest strength as a teacher would be that I am personable. I want to get to know my students so they can feel safe in the classroom and that they are cared for." According to Mrs. Russell, "A successful school year is one where students are able to grow, both academically and as people." When it comes to school memories, Mrs. Russell mentioned that "My favorite school memory would be when I was in third grade and we all walked down to Mrs. Fox's house to drink purple milk." When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom she answered, "That we are all learners and we learn something new and exciting every day. While we are learning it is okay to make mistakes." If Mrs. Russell had total control what is the one thing she would do to improve the Gordon-Rushville Schools? She replied, "I would have one-to-one iPads or laptops." Finally when Mrs. Russell 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. I would ask him what his favorite memory is."



Broc Anderson teaches 9-12, American History, American Government, and Psychology at Gordon-Rushville High School. In addition to his classroom duties, Mr. Anderson is also an assistant football coach and sponsor of the sophomore class. Mr. Anderson is a 2017 graduate of Chadron State College and is working on a master's degree from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Mr. Anderson and his wife Jordan have a

seven-week-old son named Carter. When asked what was something Mr. Anderson was passionate about he replied, "I am passionate about helping students find their strengths as well as history relating to the American West." When asked about his strength as a teacher Mr. Anderson stated, "I feel one of my strengths as a teacher is that I try to be student-oriented rather than forcing students to what best suits me. In the end, student engagement is the best way to learn." According to Mr. Anderson, "A successful school year is when students of all learning styles can find at least 2 or 3 strategies to help them learn in my classes." When it comes to school memories, Mr. Anderson mentioned that "My favorite school memory included my time in Spanish IV at Alliance High School. Too many moments to write down, but overall a great classroom environment with many of my friends in class." When asked what was one thing he wanted his students to take away from their time in his classroom he answered, "Students will take away the ability to synthesize, analyze, and formulate arguments and topics relating to historical topics and other classroom activities." If he had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mr. Anderson had was, "If I had total control of GRPS, I would bring in guest speakers for various problems facing the school." Finally when Mr. Anderson 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? He answered, "If I could have dinner with one person it would be my Grandpa Anderson when he was healthy to learn more about the family history and life here in the mid-1900s.