



Happy Holidays



Inside the Cat's Eye

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For Employees of the Marshalltown Community School District

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Mother-daughter bond extends into the same classroom at MHS



Emily Hunt, left, and her mother, Val Hunt, teach in the same Special Education classroom at Marshalltown High School. They are pictured at their desks at MHS, which are right next to each other. For a story on them, turn to page 3.

4 questions with....

**Megan Bell, new Nurse
Hoglan Elementary School**



What led you to work at Hoglan Elementary?

Megan: We just moved back to Marshalltown from Dubai this summer. When we were in Dubai, I worked at the American School of Dubai in the health office. At the beginning of the school year here after things settled, I put in my application to be a sub nurse in the district and it was just by chance that there was a position that was opening up here at Hoglan.

What do you enjoy about working in the field of nursing?

Megan: I enjoy the flexibility in nursing. I have mainly worked in OB during my career, but I have also worked as a nursing clinical instructor, in Special Care Nursery and in a school health office. When I was teaching I would tell all my students there are so many areas you can go into with a nursing degree, there is really something for everyone.

If you weren't in nursing, what field do you think you would be working in?

Megan: Before I changed my major to nursing I wanted to be a teacher, but that didn't last too long.

What is something unique about you?

Megan: My family is unique because we have moved a lot. In the 12 years I have been married, we have moved from Marshalltown to St. Louis to Singapore back to Marshalltown to Dubai and now we are back in Marshalltown. We have loved all the experiences that we have had through traveling and meeting new friends all over the world.

Gaining technological knowledge

**By David Stanfield
Instructional Design Specialist**

Teachers have always been known as masters of design. Each day in the classroom teachers must find ways to deliver content to students in a way that is engaging and understood. With the increased access to computers and the Internet, a new layer is included in the design, and this new layer can be quite complicated. In order to integrate technology effectively we need



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to build two areas of knowledge - how technological tools work, and how to use them effectively to benefit our instruction.

Many tools can be used in several ways, depending on the context we are using them in. What may be a good fit for one person to use may not work as well for another, depending on the age of students, content being taught or their educational environment.

In our most recent professional learning day, approximately 120 teachers answered a question regarding what the new technology in classrooms provided our students. Access to information was the most common answer given. It is important to remember that that same access exists for all of us.

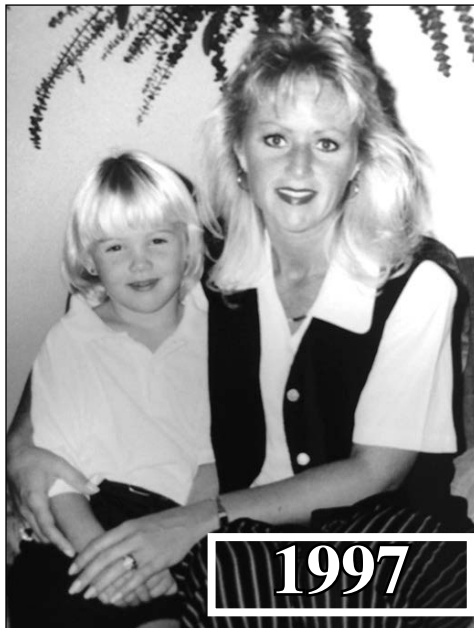
As we want our students to collaborate and communicate about their learning we need to do the same as educators. There are several ways we can access information being shared by others to help us become familiar with tools to use and how we may use them. Developing our own professional learning network is essential to keeping up with the constantly changing world of technology.



Sabrina Russell, standing left, and Kim Hurley led a session for teachers during the Professional Learning Day in the district on November 13.

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Being together comes naturally for teaching pair at high school



Mother, daughter teach in same room

Val Hunt and her daughter, Emily Hunt, have always been very close.

Their mother-daughter bond has only strengthened this year as they teach in the same Special Education classroom at Marshalltown High School.

Val is in her 15th year at MHS after stints at West Marshall and East Marshall. Emily is in her first year as an MHS teacher after working as a paraeducator while she completed her degree from Buena Vista University. A fellow school district employee thought this was so unique that the pair should be profiled.

Their two desks are right next to each other in the classroom in a school they both graduated from and it suits them just fine.

While Val wanted to be a teacher ever since she was little, Emily wasn't sure being a teacher was in her future until she began working as a paraeducator. She was able to see her mom in action and decided she wanted to follow in her

footsteps.

"She enjoyed her job and was always positive about it," Emily said. "I saw she made a difference in people's lives and I thought I wanted to do this."

Val said when they talk to people many are amazed that the pair not only teach in the same school, but also the same classroom.

"I don't think they can believe it," Val said.

Val said Emily is off to a good start in her career and has a knack for working with students in Special Education.

"Emily is so patient and the compassion she shows for other kids is unbelievable," Val said.

Emily said she continues to try to learn from her mother.

"It comes natural to her," Emily said of Val's teaching ability. "It's nice being able to watch and learn from her."

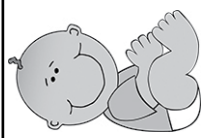
When they aren't teaching together, they love to shop together and tackle do-it-yourself home projects.

Mixing their professional and personal lives is something both seem to enjoy.

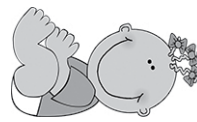
"We're together pretty much 24/7," Emily said.



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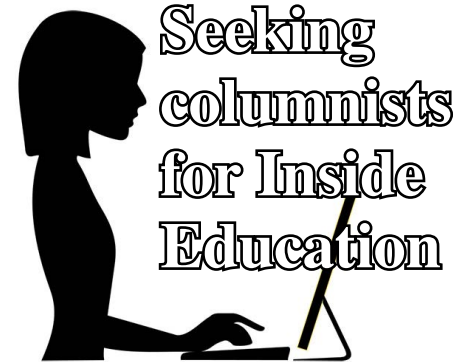


Hello baby!



Vada Rae Davis

Vada Rae Davis was born August 10, 2015. She weighed 9 pounds, 9 ounces and was 20.5 inches long. She is the daughter of Kipp Davis and Brooke Tice of Gladbrook and the granddaughter of Jeff and Vicki Tice. Jeff is a special education teacher at Miller Middle School. Jeff said Vada is already a big Hawkeye fan.



Have a knack for writing? Or a unique program going on in your classroom to share?

Let's help get the word out by writing a column for Inside Education in the Times-Republican.

Several MCSD teachers recently have contributed to this feature, which is a way to spread the good news of the district.

This is a one-time thing for many staff (unless there is more interest) and columns typically run 400-500 words.

Learn more about this feature by contacting Communications Director Andrew Potter at apotter2@marshalltown.k12.ia.us or by calling 754-1000.

Submit your news

Submit MCSD staff news such as new babies, or grandchildren, marriages, personal or professional accomplishments to: Andrew Potter, Communications Director, at apotter2@marshalltown.k12.ia.us, or call 641-754-1000.

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Google Plus and Twitter are two excellent ways to get connected and learn from others. Following a few "experts" who share what they are doing, joining an educational community or following the right hashtags can provide some excellent ideas to consider.

While these types of resources may come in short snippets, many educators enjoy taking the time to write in more detail about what they are doing in their classrooms to share with the world. Having a few blogs to refer to can make some good reading.

YouTube is also full of tutorials made to show the world how specific tools work, or how to perform certain tasks with them. The same network can be a worthwhile place to ask questions. In the same amount of time you can ask one person, you can share your question with hundreds, even thousands, of fellow professionals. Most of the time someone else has had

the same question you have, and others can learn from it too.

Lastly, don't forget about the people around you. Working with your team to discover, share and plan for using technology is also important. You never know what suggestion someone may have to turn your thought into a possibility.

Wonder where to start? I challenge you to do a simple web search for something you are looking for. Perhaps, "technology tools for formative assessments," "top educator blogs" or "educators on twitter." You'll be surprised at the results provided. Take some time to browse them and see how they may fit what you are looking for. Then, when you find something good, don't forget to share what you've found with those around you! Whether you share in person, or through some digital means, is up to you!