



Inside the Cat's Eye

Volume 27, Issue 1

For Employees of the Marshalltown Community School District

September 2015

New Teacher Edition

Michael Appel

MHS, Special Education
Hometown
Marshalltown
Education/Experience
Southwest Minnesota State.



I am the assistant men's basketball coach at Marshalltown Community College. I enjoy spending my free time with my 1 1/2 year old son, Leo. Go Cats!!!

Sue Ellen Beek

MHS, Science
Hometown
Jefferson City, MO
Education/Experience
Bachelor's and Master's from Truman State and masters in biology from Washington University. Nine years teaching at Jefferson City.



I am a former college swimmer at Truman State University. We were four-time national champs. I have two children (2 & 5 years old)

Megan Bergman

Woodbury Elementary, First Grade
Hometown
Conrad
Education/Experience
UNI/Buena Vista graduate; Middle school, kindergarten experience



I have three daughters; ISU fans and enjoy sports.

Ann Berry

Lenihan, Special Education
Hometown
Waterloo
Education/Experience
UNI, 19 years teaching Special Education.



I enjoy spending time with friends and family, hiking and other outdoor recreational activities which are mostly dictated by my Boxer Dog, Sully.

Tonja Brott

Hoglan Elementary, First Grade
Hometown
Ames
Education/Experience
14 years (mostly third grade) in Huxley, Tracy, CA, and Ames.



I have four children (10th grade, 7th grade, 1st and preschool). I enjoy attending my children's sporting events and reading.

Laura Calhoun

Hoglan and Fisher, Title 1 Reading
Hometown
Mason City
Education/Experience
Iowa and University of Northern Iowa



I have a degree in speech and hearing sciences as well as elementary education.

Amber Cole

Fisher/ Franklin,
Special
Education
Hometown
Des Moines
Education/Experience
Iowa State University
grad; student taught in
West Des Moines and
Houston, TX



I love to water ski, read and bake.

Rachel Coulter

Lenihan, Math/Science
Hometown
Altoona
Education/Experience
Iowa State graduate;
Sub at Des Moines,
Nevada and MCSD.



My husband and I are huge animal lovers. We have two cats and two dogs. We are already talking about what animals we will get when we move out of town. I am extremely excited to start full time here in MCSD.

Maggie Dumich

Fisher, Second Grade
Hometown
Milwaukee, WI
Education/Experience
Indiana University
graduate; 10 years of
teaching in Chicago and
Indiana.



I adore my three nieces and three nephews. We love to bake brownies, make forts and "play school."

Jordan Ebel

Anson, ELL
Hometown
Murrieta, CA
Education/Experience
Various English teach-
ing experiences abroad
(Kazakhstan, Spain and
Poland)



I have lived in four different countries and have traveled to a total of 15. I love experiencing new places, food and culture.

Joan Furjanic

Lenihan, ELL
Hometown
Oak Forest, IL
Education/Experience
Iowa State grad; taught
in Houston, TX for two
years.



I love to run and read.

Adam Goodvin

MHS, Special
Education
Hometown
Ottumwa
Education/Experience
Upper Iowa University/
Graceland University



Hobbies: Fishing, sports, hunting and coaching.

Amber Hagen

Woodbury, Special
Education
Hometown
Keystone, IA
Education/Experience
One year teaching special
education in Indepen-
dence, IA



Going back to school to get my Strategist II -Mental Disability (endorsement).

Peter Hapke

MHS, Math
Hometown
Ames
Education/Experience
Bachelor's in Physics,
master's in education;
Eight months teach-
ing at State Training
School (Eldora)



*Hobbies: Computers - program-
ming and building.*

Steven Hinderhofer

Miller, Health
Hometown
Grundy Center
Education/Experience
Health and P.E for six
years in Grundy Center



Runner, reader, gardener and chess player. I am excited to be teaching in Marshalltown. There is much for me to learn and much to share.

Leigh Hornbuckle

MHS, Work
Experience Coordinator
Hometown
Newton
Education/Experience
Taught middle school
in Baxter and New-
ton, Four Oaks in
Marshalltown



*Hobbies: Restoring 1968
Chevelle and collecting Nut-
crackers.*

Alexa Hotopp

MHS, Family and
Consumer Sciences
Hometown
State Center
Education/Experience
Iowa State and MCC
graduate



*I am a middle child between
two sisters.*

Emily Hunt

MHS, Special
Education
Hometown
Marshalltown
Education/Experience
Buena Vista University
graduate



*Looking forward to coaching
girls basketball at the high
school. Go Bobcats!*

Emily Hurd

Hoglan, First Grade
Hometown
Marshalltown
Education/Experience
UNI graduate; 2.5 years
teaching in Denison,
one year at Head Start in
Marshalltown,



*I love to bake and decorate
cakes.*

Mallory Kern

Hoglan, Fourth Grade
Hometown
Lansing, IL
Education/Experience
Bachelor's and Master's
from Drake; 2 years
ECSE/preschool in
Marshalltown, 1 year in
Ankeny



*I am a fourth generation
educator.*

Alex Klyn

Lenihan, Fifth Grade
Hometown
Newton
Education/Experience
Luther College; 1 year
subbing including long-
term sub at Lenihan



*I have a HUGE movie
collection.*

Don Knock

MHS, Physical
Education
Hometown
Parkersburg, IA
Education/Experience
38 years high school and
college



*Head football coach.
Coached at every level
except NFL and played at
every level. Go Bobcats!*

Sydnee Longnecker

MHS, Language Arts
Hometown
Nevada, IA
Education/Experience
UNI graduate; Teacher
at Clarke Community
Schools (Osceola, IA) for
4 years.



*Love to read and spend time
with family.*

Rachel Meckley

Miller, Counselor
Hometown
Baxter, IA
Education/Experience
Bachelor's and Master's
from Drake University;
Teacher at Collins-
Maxwell for 6 years,
counselor for 1 year.



*I enjoy cheering on the ISU
Cyclones and any and all things
about Christmas! I live in
Baxter with my husband and
our two dogs.*

Peter Nieland

MHS, Special Education
Hometown
Urbandale
Education/Experience
Bachelor's from Upper Iowa, worked as special ed associate for 6 years and sub for 2 years. U.S. Army since 2006, deployed to Cuba in 2012



I am very involved in sports, either participating, coaching or watching. I coached high school girls basketball the past two years and AAU for both high school boys and girls. Married for four years.

Hannah Pfantz

Hoglan, Third Grade
Hometown
State Center
Education/Experience
Iowa State graduate



I love gardening and the St. Louis Cardinals.

Aislinn Phan

MHS, English
Hometown
Earlham, IA
Education/Experience
Grand View University and William Penn; Waukee High School ESL associate.



I had never been on a plane until I flew in July for my honeymoon to Hawaii.

Samantha Randall

Anson, Preschool
Hometown
Monee, IL
Education/Experience
Master's in Autism and AMA National Board Certified Exceptional Needs Specialist; taught early childhood special ed for 8 years in Chicago.



I like reading and quilting in my spare time.

Alison Schlake

Anson, Special Education
Hometown
Farmersburg, IA
Education/Experience
Reading/math tutor while studying at Iowa State



I really enjoy drawing though I don't think I could teach it!

Alaina Severson

Lenihan, Fifth Grade
Hometown
Marshalltown
Education/Experience
Iowa State University graduate; Long term sub in Des Moines



Working out/exercising and rooting for the Iowa State Cyclones.

Jenny Sickles

Anson, First Grade
Hometown
Marshalltown
Education/Experience
Taught preschool and third grade during time at St. Francis Catholic School (Marshalltown)



I love to cook and read murder mysteries.

Heather Sweers

Miller, Math
Hometown
Algona, IA
Education/Experience
Iowa State University graduate; tutored and afterschool program at ISU



One of my student teaching positions was in Poland.

Margaret Williams

Director of Orchestras (MHS, Miller and Lenihan)
Hometown
Omaha, NE
Education
Drake University



I love to play the ukulele in my spare time!

Welcome! We wish you all the best as you start in the Marshalltown Community School District!

More to welcome...

Charlotte Brinson,
Franklin paraeducator

Ann Brown
MHS 10-month receptionist

Esperanza Chairez, Woodbury
paraeducator

Hannah Conkin, Hoglan 3rd grade
teacher

Bricel Davalos, Woodbury
bilingual language assistant

Janet Dolezal, Franklin
paraeducator

April Eisentrager-Tietje, Fisher
paraeducator

Jennifer Gray, Buildings and
Grounds 12-month secretary

Ali Harrelson, MHS paraeducator

Jennifer Harrington, computer
tech

Tonya Hernandez, 12-month office
MHS office secretary

Tia Hope, Fisher paraeducator

Samantha Kinney, Rogers
paraeducator

Amber Kramer, MHS
paraeducator

Nick LeWarne, MHS 12-month
records secretary

Kayla Loveland, MHS
paraeducator

Lindsey Martin, Franklin
paraeducator

Kaw Thaw Moo, Hoglan bilingual
language assistant

Amy Paul, MLA paraeducator

Estefanny Ramirez, Woodbury
bilingual language assistant

Clara Riddle-Hart, Rogers
paraeducator

Mirna Sanchez, MHS
10-month attendance secretary

Priscilla Sletten, Rogers
paraeducator

Kara Swaim, MHS custodian

Julie Underhill, MHS paraeducator

Cindy Velazquez, MHS 10-month
nurse secretary

Kamar Wilder, Anson
paraeducator

Jacqueline Zamora, bilingual
program assistant

Jacque Wyant MHS Principal

Jacque Wyant started as the new principal at Marshalltown High School this summer, arriving from Sioux City. "I have spent 7 weeks meeting

members of the community: business leaders, parents, students and staff," she said. "The people of Marshalltown are wonderful! They love their town!

Many people have been very honest with their frustrations and their joys. I believe I have the skill set to empower others in implementing strategies that improve conditions for learning. And, I have become an official Marshalltonian after moving into our home two weeks ago and getting our boys registered for school. I hope that everyone has a great school year!"



Familiar faces in new places

Sadrac Aleman, MHS Spanish
teacher

Nicole Allen, Rogers physical education teacher

Irma Becerra, 10-month bilingual
program assistant

Paula Bittner, Hoglan special
education teacher

Cheri Bolar, Franklin Title I
teacher

Heidi Borton, Anson 2nd grade
teacher

Elizabeth Brown, Fisher ELL
teacher

Dee Coulter, Miller special education teacher

Kathy Cox, Miller math teacher

Carol Crawford, MHS
paraeducator

Lori Ferneau, Fisher paraeducator

Sierra Ferneau, Hoglan

paraeducator

Nicole Gaughan, 7-12 behavior
dtrategist

Stacie Holmes, Franklin
paraeducator

Melanie Knoll, Rogers 1st grade
teacher

Jacquilin Kopsa, Anson Title I
teacher

Todd Kluver, Miller physical education teacher

Kate Lamb, MHS 12-month athletics secretary

Anna Miller, Miller social studies
teacher

Lacie Moore, Hoglan TLC coach

Stacy O'Hare, Hoglan special
education teacher

Paige Olis, Fisher special education BD teacher

Rachel Olson, Anson special education teacher

teacher

Danielle Ongie, Anson preschool
teacher

Elizabeth Overstake, Franklin
TLC coach

Rachel Palmer, District payroll
specialist

Jonie Swartz, 12-month special
services secretary

Julie Thede, Woodbury TLC
coach

Sandy Thomae, Lenihan special
education teacher

Amy Troup, 12-month technology
secretary

Brad Weidenaar, MHS TLC
coach

Anna Wolvers, Rogers special
education teacher



Spanish immersion class

Four Marshalltown Schools teachers attended a Spanish Immersion graduate class at Grand View University in Des Moines earlier this year. The class, presented by the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, is held yearly, and this year used the country of Argentina as its theme. Pictured are, from left, Sadrac Aleman (MHS), Mary Harris (Woodbury), Myriam Montiel Arellano (Fisher) and Dee Murphy (Woodbury).

Franklin staff help improve building over summer



Several Franklin Elementary School staff members volunteered their time over the summer to paint hallways and classrooms at the school. These staff members have made a tremendous improvement to the building for students, families and staff to enjoy. The volunteers included: Kate Pimlott, Gina Eberline, Amy Phillips, Rhonda Vaske, Shelly Kluver Ashley Herren, Jade Musgrave, Tami Huck, Teri Ross-Engle, Natalie Elliott, Sam Backstrom, Diane Broshar, Elizabeth Overstake and Amber Cole.

Free month at Y for MCSD staff and families in September



During the month of September, all Marshalltown Community School District employees and their immediate families will have unlimited use of the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA facility and all exercise classes for free.

All you have to do is show the Y staff your school ID at the service desk to receive the free, one-month pass.

If you join during the month of September, the Y will waive your activation fee. This is part of MCSD being named Business of the Month by the Marshalltown YMCA-YWCA for September. For more information on this offer, call the Y at 641-752-8658.

Submit news for future issues of Cat's Eye newsletter



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.

The next issue of *Inside the Cat's Eye* is scheduled to print in late October. Please submit your items for that issue by Sept. 25.