

JV and JH football both capped off wins against Flandreau earlier this week, completing a sweep of the Fliers that the varsity started last Friday.

Blue Ink



Computer and business classes get makeover

by Nika Sapunar
staff writer

Q: Why did you come to teach to Garretson?

A: I was excited that there was a school opening close to my home so I can drive because I have kids that are already enrolled in school. I love small communities, and I love the school settings.

Q: What are 3 things that people need to know about you?

A: My family is very important to me and we spend a lot of time together. I love playing cards while I am camping.

Q: What are some good things and bad about Garretson?

A: On a good side I would say that everyone is so nice from administration to students. Bad I would say that just the stress in the morning of trains, being late because of them.

Q: Why did you decide you want to

be a teacher?

A: Other than working on the farm, I love working with kids, coaching softball or lifeguarding. I took two things that I love and put it together: business and computers with kids, and figured out teaching was the best fit for me.

Q: What's your favorite thing about teaching?

A: With accounting, its that everyone is going to need what are we teaching here, and kids are easier to motivate because of that. They are excited to learn something new and use it. With computers, I love it because it's always changing; its never the same thing. It makes me so glad when I have kids who are maybe not comfortable with technology, that they are relaxed. And my hope is that they can adapt to whatever technology its going to be in the future and go with it.

Q: What would you be doing if you weren't a teacher?

Mrs. McGee focuses on real-world and hands-on learning during class

A: I don't know. Teaching is hand on; I like to do projects or just things that get kids involved and excited about what are we doing.

Q: Why did you decide to do something with computers?

A: Well, computers were just starting and it was interesting to me. I could help other people with it so it made sense.

Q: What educational background do you have?

A: I went to college at Northern State University (NSU) in Aberdeen, South Dakota. I have basic business and computer options and business degree.

Q: What do you do when you are not at school/ What are your interest outside teaching?

A: I love to cook and camp, play cards and I used to love golf but in the last two years I wasn't so much in it. But I hope I will have time to golf again soon.

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Four times more people speak English as a foreign language than a native one

LIFE HACK OF THE WEEK: Eating watermelon can help reduce acne and keep skin healthy.

CROATIAN WORD OF THE WEEK:

Sick = bolesna (female)
= bolestan (male)
= bolest (root)

JOKE OF THE WEEK: What happened to the frog's car when it broke down?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK:

Solve this rebus puzzle. **dodo list**

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

Upcoming Events

Friday, September 27

- Marching Band @ Beresford

Saturday, September 28

- Marching Band @ Luverne
- State Softball Tourney (8:00)
- C Volleyball @ Beresford (9:00)

Sunday, September 29

- State Softball Tourney (TBD)

Monday, September 30

- "True Colors": Class color day
- Ruff & Tuff (2:00)
- Coronation (7:00)
- Powderpuff (8:00)

Tuesday, October 1

- "Cool Kids" - Jocks v. Nerds
- XC @ Sioux Valley (4:30)
- JH VB v. Elkton-Lake Benton (4:00)
- C/JV VB v. Elkton-Lake Betnon (5:00/6:15)
- VB v. Elkton-Lake Benton (7:15)

Wednesday, October 2

- "Old Town Road": Country v. Rap

Thursday, October 3

- Float Building (1:30)
- XC @ Lennox (4:30)
- JH VB v. Parker (4:00)
- C/JV VB v. Parker (5:00/6:15)
- VB v. Parker (7:15)

Friday, October 4

- Game Show (8:30)
- Dragon Olympics (9:45)
- MS Kickball (9:45)
- Parade (1:30)
- Community Pep Rally (2:00)
- FB v. Elk Point-Jefferson (7:00)

Working for prime playoff positions

Soccer closes out season, waits for others—Volleyball snags 10th win

SOCCER

by Preston Bohl
staff writer

With the completion of yesterday's game against Sioux Falls Christian, the Lady Dragons Soccer team has officially finished their regular season with a 4-5-3 record.

The team's four wins on the season came from defeating Huron, Worthington, and Groton twice. The five losses come from number one ranked Tea, number two ranked West Central, and losses to Mitchell, Vermillion, and Sioux Falls Christian. Tied games were against Vermillion, Dakota Valley, and Sioux Falls Christian.

After making it to the playoffs last year for the first time in soccer's program history, hopes are high for another playoff birth for the Lady Dragons, as they are currently sitting in that last qualifying spot, however there are a few games left for their competitors to play.

As of now, the team is ranked sixth in the state out of the six teams who make it to the playoffs, but rankings may change after this weekend to see where everyone is at.

A devastating 1-0 loss in the final minutes to the Vermillion Tanagers last year in the quarterfinals has de-

termined the girls even more this year. Their eyes are set on gold, but they are going to take the rest of the season game by game, not thinking ahead.

"Playoffs are just like the start of the season; our record is 0-0. Our goal is to beat teams who have beat us previously and go out to play hard and try our best!" stated Freshman Raegen Altman.

This past week has been jam packed with soccer games, which is getting the girls ready for the most important part of their season. Soccer played Groton on Saturday winning 1-0, tied Dakota Valley 1-1 on Tuesday, and lost to Sioux Falls Christian in a 0-2 deficit yesterday.

Playoff dates are set to start the October 8, so we wish the Blue Dragons the best of luck throughout the rest of their season.

VOLLEYBALL

by Parker Schlenker
staff writer

The Lady Blue Dragons volleyball team started their busy week out with two quick sweeps both away from home. To start off the long week, Garretson headed to Flandreau to play the Flandreau Indians and had a quick 3-0 sweep. The

scores of each set being 25-7, 25-10, and 25-9.

With a commanding 23 aces senior Aftyn Heitkamp led the team with five and junior Kennedy Buckneberg followed close behind with four but not only did the ladies have 20+ aces they also had 20+ digs and kills as a team. Junior Lauren Heesch led digs with 11 and junior Lizzie Olson led kills with five.

The Blue Dragons kept their head of steam and carried it over into Tuesday's game with another 3-0 sweep, this time over the Dell Rapids Quarriers: 25-16, 25-12, and 25-18.

Sophomore Jaelyn Benson had a great game on the assist end setting kill leader Olson up for nine kills and sophomore Lily Ranschau for seven. Logan Bly, a freshman, also had a good game with four aces and three blocks.

Last night the Garretson volleyball team just couldn't carry the momentum of the earlier two wins into their game against the Chester Flyers, going down in three hard fought sets. Both second and third sets required extra points to determine the winner with the 3rd being a nail biter with multiple lead changes and what most would say was a controversial line call. Nevertheless the Blue Dragons fought hard in their last game of the

JOKE: It got "toad" (towed)

Homecoming: the musical

by Grace Panning & Oliviyah Thornton
senior writer



GARRETSON
BLUE DRAGONS

Garretson will be having one of their most exciting weeks of school on September 30 to October 4. The week starts with Ruff and Tuff Volleyball, Powder Puff Football and the crowning of the king and queen. Throughout the week having two volleyball games, two cross country meets, the parade, and ending off the week with a football game. But the events are not the only thing students are looking forward to but also the dress up days, being able to turn back the clock and dress in their favorite time period to dressing up as nerds and music stars.

Monday: "True Colors"

On Monday, students will show their true colors with freshmen class being pink, sophomores fluorescent yellow/green, juniors orange, and seniors black. Starting off the school day with coronation practice at 8:30 a.m. and ending the school day with Ruff & Tuff Volleyball at 2:00.

That evening coronation will start at 7:00 p.m and PowderPuff Football will start at 8:00 p.m. located at the Garretson Athletic Complex a.k.a. the football field.

The first round of PowderPuff will be Seniors vs. Freshmen and Juniors vs. Sophomores. Depending on how the first round goes will determine who faces off against each other in the second round, where first round winners will play each other as will first round non-winners. The Garretson Food Center and Coca Cola will be sponsoring the hotdog feed that will be offered after Powder Puff.

This eventful day is one of the most popular homecoming days because classes are finally able to compete with one another and really find out which class is the 'best' class. Rachael Kindt, a senior, said, "I am most excited for powderpuff. It's the one thing that has brought my class together and it is something we all enjoy doing. We are a class who loves to win, so PowderPuff is right up our alley."

Tuesday: "Cool Kids"

The second day of Homecoming week will consist of a volleyball game and cross country. Volleyball will face off against Elkton-Lake Benton starting with JH at 4:00 in the old gym and C starts at 5:00 in the Dragons' lair on our own home court. Cross country will head to Volga to run at 4:30 p.m.

Tuesday doesn't just offer a time when we can support our Garretson teams and show our school spirt but a fun day of dressing up. Tuesday will be "Cool Kids" - Jocks vs. Nerds.

Wednesday: "Old Town Road"

The third day of Homecoming will be a little less eventful than the first part of the week but it will be "Old

Town Road" – Country vs. Rap.

Even some Garretson students have shown excitement for this dress up day, mirroring the phenomenon that this song was earlier this year.

Kylie Uhl, a senior, stated, " I'm going all out country for Wednesday because it's a day where I can show my roots without being totally judged. And I like throw back day (Thursday) because I don't have to do anything I'm just like, 'Hey mom dress me up' and I just hope for the best."

Thursday: "Good Ole Days"

Dress up day will be "Good Ole Days" – Throwback. The one being anything you could possibly want to be from the past whether that be dressing up as someone from the '50s all the way to just wearing old Garretson apparel. The possibilities are endless especially if you like dressing up like the past.

The events for this day consist of float building during 7th and 8th periods and volleyball will be hosting another home game. This time against Parker. It once again will be a full slate of games starting with junior high at four going through varsity at 7:00. Cross Country will also be heading out to Lennox to run at 4:30 p.m.

Friday: "My House"

The last and most exciting day of Homecoming dress up will be "My House" – Spirit Day. This day's events starts off right away in the morning at 8:30 a.m. with a game show and afterwards at 9:45 a.m. will be Dragon Olympics. Sophomore Dylan Kindt said, "I am looking forward to Friday with the Dragon Olympics and the parade."

Later in the day the classes will get to show off there killer parade floats in the Homecoming Parade at 1:30 pm. Following the parade will be the All Community Pep Rally in the Dragon's Lair. With this day of excitement Garretson will also be letting students out early, around 2:45 pm.

That night football will be having their Homecoming football game at 7:00 p.m. against Elk Point-Jefferson. This game might not be such an easy win for the Blue Dragons but the team is preparing. Mr. Long shared, "Elk Point has some good athletes and have played a tough schedule up until this point. We have to use our bye week to get better and see if we can gameplay something that can be effective against EPJ." This team might not be easy but this will make for an exciting game and an exciting game is a great way to end the Homecoming week.

There will also be no homecoming dance this year do to there being plans of having a fall formal.

Teachers take trips abroad

Overseas opportunities available to Garretson students

by Noel Johnson
staff writer

Will you be joining the summer of 2021 with Mrs. Pliska or Mrs. Gloe taking a trip abroad to Europe?

Mrs. Pliska is traveling to Italy and Greece, this is trip for adults or if under 18, a minor must be accompanied by an adult.

While Mrs. Pliska is in Italy and Greece, Mrs. Gloe will be a hop, skip, and a jump away touring in London, Paris, and Barcelona.

Mrs. Gloe's trip is for any GHS students who are interested in taking advantage of this opportunity. That is all the information given from Mrs. Gloe at this time though.

Mrs. Pliska has been leading educational student travel since 2014. Out of the five years participating in this, she has taken students from different schools and including Garretson to France, Britain, and Ireland this past June. In June 2016 she traveled to Amsterdam, France, and London, and lastly in June 2014 she traveled to Germany, Italy, Switzerland, and France.

"Each trip I have done has been absolutely incredible," said Mrs. Pliska.

For traveling abroad Mrs. Pliska uses a company called Education First which means these trips are not school sponsored but still have large benefits toward school. The program used is based on education and focused on learning.

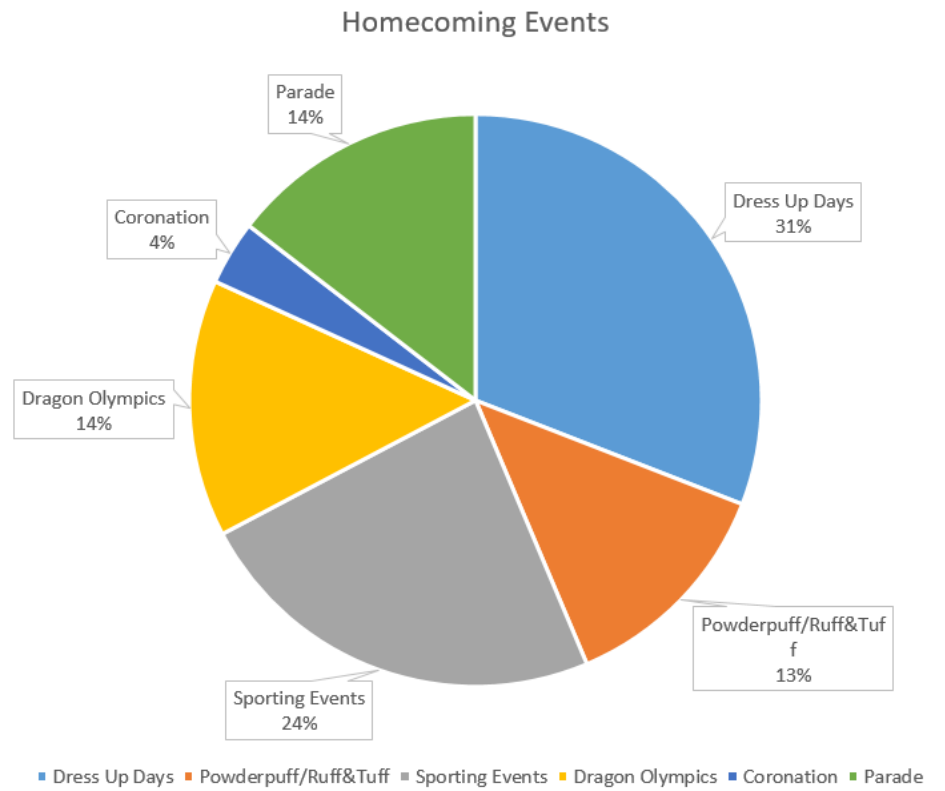
"It is a way to make the world your classroom," said Mrs. Pliska.

This is the first time Mrs. Pliska will be doing a trip designed more for adults, which is slower and more relaxed rather than jam packed and fast-paced like the one based more for students. The trips are used to help increase knowledge in culture and history. Along with the extra knowledge there is a possibility to earn high school or college credits which is a benefit targeted toward the students.

The trips that are taken by both Pliska and Gloe are mainly for education and overall experience purposes. Is there any interest in finding out more or going to Europe now?

Student Opinion Poll

Dress up days top favorites of homecoming week activities



State softball tourney

Blue Dragon fall ball team caps off season in Yankton this weekend

JV - B

Day	Time	Location
SATURDAY Sept. 28	11:00AM C	...
	11:00AM D	...
	12:30PM C	...
	12:30PM D	...
	3:30PM D	...
	5:00PM C	...
	5:00PM D	...
	5:00PM H	...
	5:00PM I	...
	5:00PM J	...
SUNDAY Sept. 29	9:30AM A	...
	11:00AM B	...
	12:30PM B	...
	2:00PM A	...
	3:30PM A	...
	5:00PM A	...
	5:00PM B	...
	5:00PM C	...
	5:00PM D	...
	5:00PM E	...

The campaign to remember

Sandy Hook Promise releases emotional ad

by **Kylie Uhl**
senior writer

Seven years ago, on December 11, Sandy Hook elementary school lost twenty seven lives. Twenty of those being first grade students and seven of those being staff and faculty members, marking it as one of the most-known shootings in American history.

Since that tragic day, there is now a non profit organization called Sandy Hook Promise with their statement being, "I promise to do all I can to protect children from gun violence by encouraging and supporting solutions that create safer, healthier homes, schools and communities."

One week ago the organization upload a strong back to school advertisement. In the commercial it starts out with kids showing off their new back to school supplies. Shortly after it escalates to a very realistic shooting scenario and ending with the organizations message on school shooting prevention signs.

The Sandy Hook Promise foundation has trained 7,500,000 people on their programs and practices for mental illness and gun safety. Their three co-founders, Mark Barden, Nicole Hockley, and Tim Makris were all personally impacted by the Sandy Hook shooting and banded together to create the Sandy Hook Promise organization.

Since the organization started, they have had over 3,500,000 supporters make the promise to help protect children by preventing gun violence.



When asked about preparing for incidents like this Elementary Principal Mrs. Hulscher said, "Sadly, it's easier to imagine a violent act happening in our school than it is to prepare for it. There are so many unpredictable variables and that's scary."

Since we know shootings like this happen and that it is a reality in our day to day lives never knowing what to expect when walking through the doors senior Madi Nordstrom addressed the question on if she ever feared coming to school? "I wouldn't say I fear coming to school, but I think in my head it's just a small school and nothing bad is going to happen. I know that's such a terrible mindset to have but I feel pretty safe here."

However when asked what she would do if there was an active shooter, she said "I would not stay in the building; that's just my personal opinion. I would try to get out as soon as I could and if that meant I went by someone who was trying to hurt me then I guess that's what would happen. I would not just sit and wait in a classroom that's the last thing I would do."

Cross country continues to improve

by **Mason Hofer**
senior writer

This Wednesday, the Garretson Cross Country team head out for Dell Rapids for their seventh meet of the season.

Garretson competed better than they did at this meet last year for the most part. Girls varsity placed second overall. Taylor Benson placed 16th (21:41), Payton Campbell placed 14th (21:38), Kylie Christiansen placed 12th (21:37), and Makayla Heesch came in at third with a time of (20:41). Adisynn Fink, who placed 23rd for Junior High, decreased her time from last year by 2:30.

The boys on the other hand did not place as well as the girls as a team. Boys Varsity came in at 7th overall, only having one runner on varsity place in the top 50. Preston Bohl placed fifth in the varsity race with a time of 17:36, 27 seconds faster than last year's race. Matthew Gilbert placed fourth for Junior Varsity with a time of 15:51. Chris Wynia placed 39th with 18:39 on JV, and Noah Schotzko placed 39th in Junior High with a time of 16:04.

Garretson School's food fight

Students work to adjust to newest lunch program

by **Nobel Nothstine**
senior writer

Only 1 in 10 children in the US consume the recommended daily dose of fruits and vegetables, and for a majority of kids, french fries are 1/4-1/2 of all of the "vegetables" they eat. Surprised? Don't be. Lunch has been a hot-fire topic across the U.S for many reasons, but it's also a big deal in the Garretson School District. Students are learning how to adjust to their new lunch provider, Thrive, in its first few trial weeks.

The time to establish healthy eating habits is when kids are young. Some foods are fine as treats, but making cheeseburgers or pizza a regular part of the school lunch program is a recipe for disaster.

After the *Blue Ink's* student view lunch article last week, we interviewed superintendent Mr. Guy Johnson to pull in a different view.

Q: Garretson recently switched from Lunchtime Solutions to Thrive; can you explain a few of the reasons behind that?

A: By law, every five years, Garretson goes through a "request for proposals" process. What that means is we prepare a nearly 100 page document laying out the specifications of what food service management has to do for us. We also layout criteria by which we have to judge their proposals. Our criteria is roughly 65% finances, 15% reputation/references, 15% their personnel management plan, and 5% innovation. This year we had two companies submit proposals, Lunchtime Solutions and Thrive. Both programs have a good reputation, similar styles of management, and they both had innovation plans that were fairly good. So, it

came down to finances.

Q: Does Thrive offer any similar perks to Lunchtime Solutions, like the monthly caterers?

A: Thrive has a number of things they're going to try to do to promote different foods. But as of right now, in the first 21 days, Thrive's goal is to figure out what the student body wants.

Q: Are there risks to working with such a young company?

A: Thrive really isn't a young company, they've just changed names a lot. They used to be CBM, and before that, "Catering by Marlins". My wife used to work at the prison, about 20 years ago, and CBM was the provider for all of the state penitentiaries. So, they've done institutional stuff for a long time. Not that our schools the same as a prison, but it boils down to feeding a large number of people.

Q: Do you have a statement for the influx of students (mainly older) bringing in their lunch?

A: There was a similar pattern the last time we changed our lunch provider. We will be able to look at our percentage of lunch usage after the first quarter. I believe it's mainly seniors, and with privs being established, the whole argument becomes a moot point.

Q: Would you ever consider bringing back homemade bread or malts to the school?

A: Well, we don't have a malt machine, as we sold it in the auction last year. As for the homemade bread, it was stopped because of the grain restrictions put in by Michelle Obama. Everything we served had to be over 50% whole grain, desserts

were anything but banned with the sugar reduction, and the worst one for people to adjust to was the salt reduction.

Q: This one is more of a personal question, but salt and other seasonings were removed from the lunch room. Why is this?

A: We have a system whose recipes are designed around a low sodium level, and for health sake, we'd like to keep it that way. To put it simply, no, we will not be bringing back salt shakers to the lunch room.

Q: What can students do if they have complaints?

A: If they really want to see a change, the first step is to talk to your principal. There is possibility of a lunch committee, but it would be for those people who use the lunch program. That implies that seniors, who seem to have the biggest problem with the lunch, would not be included because of privs. That normally would happen mid-year, but there is a way of expediting that situation, if the principal felt like there were really a lot of kids who wanted to see changes. Nobody here wants the students to be unhappy. We want a lunch program that fits the guidelines, and one that students like to eat at. The bottom line, is that we don't want students to think we're going to be unreasonable about this. If you do have complaints, you just have to pass them forward. Students can have constructive criticism, with a mind for making things better.

Food isn't nutritious...if kids don't eat it. Hopefully students can adjust to this new program and be more of a presence in the administration when it comes to what they are eating.