



Parking lot rules and suggestions (on back page)

Blue Ink



New school year, new classes

Students enjoy more electives to choose from for the 2016-2017 school year

by **Samantha Gonzalez**
staff writer

Remember having to wish that there were more electives or opportunities at our small school? Well there must have been a shooting star because this school year we have eight new classes! The classes are Intro to Pottery, Metal Fabrications (welding), Lifetime Sports, Mass Communications, Calculus, Creative Writing, Horticulture, and Multimedia.

To be more descriptive about what these classes are about let's start with pottery, which is taught by Mrs. Granberg, is an art that takes earthenware or clay to make dishes and pots.



Lysnay Granberg was able to fit pottery into her schedule this year. This is a class that students have been wanting for quite some time.

Welding, which is taught by Ms. Kientopf, a new teacher to Garretson this year, takes metal then cuts, bends and assembles it into things that metal could be used for. Horticulture that is also taught by Ms. Kientopf is a class that teaches proper practice of garden cultivation and management.

Next is Mass Communications, which is taught by Mrs. Buchholz. This class focuses on the application of advertising, marketing, broadcasting, public relations and more. Creative Writing again

taught by Mrs. Buchholz is an English sub department that comes from the imagination to support the meaning through the use of imagery, narrative, and drama.



Kelsey Buchholz has two new classes to her schedule this year: mass communications and creative writing.

Lifetime Sports, taught by Mr. Mudder, is just another fancy word for P.E. Though Lifetime Sports is more focus on just physical activities that can be carried for years despite age or participant number restrictions..



Dave Mudder fills up an open semester with a PE elective.

Finally, for the last two, we have Calculus taught by Mr. Bohl, a math that focuses mostly with rates of change and with finding lengths, areas, and volumes. Which is about a simple is I can explain it.



Jason Bohl brings calculus back to the Garretson academic offerings after a brief hiatus.

Lastly Multimedia, taught by Mr. Schrank, a computer class that will acquaint the students with industry-standard tools, skills, and materials that they can

use as the sole means of creative expression, including video editing, website creation, and the like.



Matt Schrank stepped into a new role this year taking on duties as a technology coordinator in addition to teaching the new class, multimedia

Now you might be wondering why some of the classes we have had in the past are counted as new classes. Well it's just for the simple fact that we have them again in a new school year. For example, horticulture and welding were classes that we had last year but now instead of just having it in Ag and it there as an option, they are now in separate departments, specifically scheduled into the day.

Alyssa Bunde, a senior that takes both mass communications and pottery shared her thoughts on the new offerings this year. "These class add to our school and provide new opportunities."

She furthered with a resounding yes that she is enjoying the new classes she is taking because they provide new challenges.

"As cool as it is to say that you were the first class to experience this, it would have been great to have these options my freshman year," said Bunde.

So with new classes heading into our school, what are some classes you would like to see in the future?

Blue Dragon football kicks off season against tough opponent

Garretson under new coaching leadership, starts year against ranked opponent

by **Mason Hofer**
staff writer

The Garretson varsity football team (0-1) played their first game of the season against the Chester Area Flyers (1-0), ranked #3 in pre-season polls. Garretson was handed their first loss off the season last Friday 20-55.

"I feel like after that first loss we can come back and really start playing as a team and go 7-1" stated freshman Cole Skadsen. "We just need to work on pushing through it when we're tired."

The Blue Dragons came out strong and were leading at halftime. But a tough Flyer team

pulled out a strong second half.

"We've got a lot of guys on our depth chart that can step up and fill the spots. They just have to basically say it's my turn to play and I have to go out there and execute," stated first year head coach Chris Long when he was asked about the team's injuries, which there have been a few in this young season.



Chris Long is in his first season coaching the Blue Dragon gridiron gang.

Garretson has a bye this week so they will have some time to

prepare for the next game.

"We've really got to work on tackling. We've been doing a lot of tackling drills in practice lately. We really have to work on getting to the football and know our responsibilities," said Long.

How will Garretson do this season? Will they have a better season than last year's 2-6 team?

"I think that if we get some confidence and start playing a little better defense, we will be a good football team, because we can score points," said Long

Next Friday September 9th Garretson goes onto play the Alcester-Hudson Cubs in Alcester!

This Week's Need to Know

FACT OF THE WEEK: Silly putty was used by astronauts in the Apollo 8 mission to keep their tools from floating around.

JOKE OF THE WEEK: How does the ocean say hello?

BRAINTEASER OF THE WEEK: There are 10 body parts that have only 3 letters. What are they? (no slang allowed)

Answers to joke and brainteaser are on the bottom.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Monday, September 5**
 - No School—Labor Day
- Tuesday, September 6**
 - XC @ Jesse James Invite (4:00)
 - Soccer @ West Central (6:00)
- Thursday, September 8**
 - VB @ BEC—Home (6:00/8:00)
- Friday, September 9**
 - FB v. Alcester-Hudson (7:00)
 - FB Parents' Night
 - XC Parents' Night

Scan for a look at the district activities calendar.



Worth Mentioning

Junior High Sports have new coaches this year. Junior high football is headed up by Mr. Dave Mudder while volleyball was taken over by Ms. Stacy Beckman.

The grading scale has changed this year to include + and - with the letter grades. The percentage needed to earn certain grades has changed. In addition AP and dual credit courses are now weighted.

The academic eligibility policy has also changed. Now students will have grades checks weekly, starting Monday, September 12. Students must be passing all classes to participate in school activities for the week.

Incentive days have changed. It is based on both attendance and grades. One full day can be earned based on those criteria.

2016-2017 school year has many changes

From new classes to new teachers to new students, the school year has many things to keep everyone on their toes

by **Jaden Braaten**
staff writer

Even though we hate to see summer end, with the school supplies stocked on the shelves, it's time to get back to the books! Time for the daily routine that most teenagers dread. Although some may have been ready to come back, a majority of students disagree and think summer should last forever.

When asked about how the first week of school went, new freshmen Rachel Kindt and Madi Nordstrom had this to say, "It was really intimidating

and everyone treats you like the new freshman you are and it's definitely different from last year."

Unlike Kindt and Nordstrom, Kindra Clark was prepared and knew what to expect. "It feels good to be back and to be a senior, especially being top of the food chain," she said.

Principal Chris Long was very eager to start the new school year as well, "The first week was very hectic trying to get everyone in their correct classes, but we couldn't have had a better start to our school year!"

Many students at GHS have taken part in a lot of the new classes this fall,

such as pottery, mass communications, etc. Clark is one of those students. "They are definitely a big step up from my junior year in terms of difficulty but it's going well so far!" she mentioned.

Mr. Long is also very thrilled about the new options, "I'm pretty happy about the new classes, especially that most of the students are taking part in them and most of the classes have a good solid number of kids!"

There have already been a lot of changes to GHS this fall, especially some of the new staff, the new study hall teacher, Mrs.Theilen, Mr.Shrank

who decided to change it up this year and become the schools' technology coordinator and is also teaching a multimedia class, and Mrs. Blok who is also the new high school computer teacher. Even though we had to see many old faces go, it's good to see new faces and see different teaching techniques!

So as the school progresses stay focus, study hard, and interact with the new faces you meet. Whether you are at bottom of the food chain or getting ready to graduate make sure you make the 2016-2017 school year an unforgettable experience!

Soccer secures second win of season

Another new coach for the soccer team, but the Blue Dragons are on pace for their best season yet

by **Hunter Carver**
staff writer

With soccer season already having more wins than any other fall sport, the Blue Dragon soccer team may have a promising year ahead of them. On August 12th the Lady Dragons (1-0) battled against the Vermillion Lady Tanagers for a tough win.

There was no scoring until the final 5 minutes when senior Kindra Clark shot off a penalty kick and recorded the win.

The dragons have played six games so far. After winning their first game, they fell to a tough stretch, dropping their next four. That did not discourage the team though.

Just last night the girls travelled to Mitchell (3-4). Once again the team was able to put together a solid defensive effort, shutting down the Kernels. The Blue Dragons upset the

home team scoring the one goal of the game improving their record to 2-4.

Junior midfielder Peyton Sage said, "I think we will actually be pretty amazing this year, although we only have two wins so far, I believe our team has a positive outlook this year with the drive and competitiveness that our players have."

Some of the girls were nervous this year because of the new coaching staff. This is the third new coach in the four years of the soccer program but it looks to be a good change for the soccer team. Emily Willman has stepped up as the head coach this year. She is assisted by kindergarten teacher Alyxa Hoefert-Veldhuizen.

But now with one more win than they had last year, the team is no longer worried, but more anxious to see what the rest of the season brings.

Cross country teams show promise

Two invitationals in, both the boys and girls teams keep improving and they are figuring out how to replace key runners from last season

by **Peyton Sage**
staff writer

With two meets in the books, the cross country season is up and running. Although neither the boys' or girls' teams are running a full squadron, both teams are looking for individual success in the upcoming season. Garretson is seeing lots of potential in many of the returning runners, even after losing many of the star seniors.

After competing last week in Bersford and McCook, two of the state's larger meets with about 25 teams competing, the cross country crew has set out some goals and expectations for the following meets to come including improvements throughout the season.

Freshman Rachel Kindt said, "I think we did exceptionally well overall even though we only have four varsity runners on our team. Because we

don't have fifth and sixth runners for pushers, it will be more of a challenge to place as a team."

In order to place at the region and state meet, a varsity team needs to have at least four qualifying runners.

"Right now we only have three varsity runners but we'll definitely pick up one more. If we all perform as well as we have in the past, we should have a chance," said junior Jack Konechne. "We want to start out slow and keep building up. I think we'll peak when we need to around regions and state like we did last year."

As long as the team keeps up with their training and performances at meets, Garretson cross country is expecting to have yet a very successful year.

Next, the team will run at the home Jesse James meet on Tuesday, seeking continued success in their early season.

Local festival draws big crowds

Lifelight has expanded immensely over the years and continues to bring in big names and even bigger crowds over the Labor Day weekend

by **Isaiah Mader**
staff writer

Starting up tonight is Lifelight, the largest free music festival in the U.S. which is located on a family farm just by Worthing, South Dakota.

The event was founded by the Greene family who started the Christian gathering back in 1998. Their first concert was held on a church lawn

and only brought out 2,000 people, the three-day festival now draws well over 300,000 attendees.

Over the past years, the event has outgrown two spots, but now it is at a permanent location. Its new home consists of 500 camping sites, five stages, a skate park, a frisbee golf course, a pond, and many food vendors.

Freshman Madi Nordstrom, who

has been attending the event since she was 8, said her favorite thing about Lifelight is just seeing all the people gather around and enjoy good music while getting a great message at the same time.

Junior Mikayla Bottelberghe seemed to agree, "I'm just excited for all the great bands and the delicious food. Seeing this many Christians gather together is an amazing sight."

Nordstrom and Bottelberghe also concurred in advising anybody who can go, to attend the music festival.

As usual, this year is jam-packed full of great bands. The headliners this year are Lecrae, Remedy Drive, Red, and Sanctus Real.

Even though the upcoming weather doesn't look the greatest, be sure to come out and enjoy the largest free concert in the U.S.

Parking lot etiquette

As new drivers enter the school lot for the first time, there are a few unwritten rules they should be aware of

by **Sylvia Larson**
Editorial—staff writer

"If you can't park, walk." Sophomore Molly Houg, who is generally one of the first students in the parking lot in the morning, sums up the mentality of students who drive to school in just one sentence.

It's a new school year which means new students, new cars, and newly licensed drivers are attempting to navigate the scary world that is the student parking lot. Most parking veterans have already chosen their go-to parking space for the year. A lot of people aren't very picky when it comes to their area, though. As long as they're in the same vicinity or even the same half as their preferred spot.

There have already been various rules neglected, ignored, and broken so far this year, but we really can't

blame newbies for being ignorant to the widely accepted rules, some concrete and some assumed, of the parking lot.

Each Grade has a Specified Parking Area: You might get into some hot water with upperclassmen if you park in their area. The senior parking area is located along Main Street next to the school. It's there mostly because of convenience for the seniors to leave for privs and such.

"It's really convenient for me," commented senior Hailey Steffes, who has lived through every grade's parking area, "I can leave later for school which means I can sleep more."

Junior parking is the spaces against the gym by the sidewalk in the student parking lot. Sure, it's only like twenty feet closer to the entrance, but having a tiny bit shorter walk to the high school hallway is a nice re-

ward for making it to junior year without dying.

Sophomores, freshman, and others park in the remaining spaces of the student lot, although if you ask juniors and sophomores they'll probably tell you that freshman have to park in the back row.

Sometimes a certain group will have control over an area of parking, but that doesn't happen very often. For example - some of the FFA and agriculture kids park on first street next to the ag barn.

Park Like a Pro: A staggering one of every five motor vehicle accidents take place in a parking lot. The risk is higher for new drivers. One way to combat this is to park in a way that prevents having to squeeze a large or even small car in tight spaces, and make sure that you don't have to try to back out of these spaces. The best

way to do that is to pull through whenever possible. If you get to school early and the lot is mostly empty, it's your responsibility to make parking easier for you to get out of and your peers to get into.

Try to park as well as you can. Don't get too close to the lines or be all slanted in your spot. Nobody wants to have to get in their car from the passengers side because someone parked an inch away from them.

The rules of the parking lot is a system with very few flaws because of everyone's participation. As long as the freshmen are kept in check with where to park and nobody's spot gets taken too often, this year should go as smoothly as possible. We haven't had very many accidents and nobody's died yet so I'd call it a success.