



# THE EAGLE'S WING

Keota Jr./Sr. High School Student Newspaper



ISSUE No. 1

## Meet The Teachers of Keota High School

### MEET MR. NEDERHOFF



BY KENDALL WILSON

Mr. Nederhoff is in his third year of teaching at Keota High School. He has been teaching the same classes the three years he has been teaching here. Some of those include Business Computer Applications, Intro to Accounting, Personal Finance, Intro to Business, and Marketing. If he had the chance to choose a different career he says he would still be a teacher. If his classroom could be changed in any way, he says he would want to repaint the green walls, and get some newer computers. One fact that could be hard for Mr. Nederhoff's students to believe would be that he drives an hour and a half to work every day. If he could get rid of one part of his job, it would be the drive. When asked how his students would describe him he said, "When they get to know me better, I'm pretty laid back."

Mr. Nederhoff's hobbies consist of traveling and watching Hawkeye

football games. If he could meet anyone in the world, it would be Hayden Fry. Australia would be his first choice if he could travel anywhere, because everyone he knows that has been there says Australia is a great experience. When asked what his most memorable experience with a vehicle is, he said driving in Chicago for the first time with all the people. If Mr. Nederhoff had a million dollars, he says he would invest it.

In high school, he felt that all of his teachers were pretty good, and in college his favorite course was Accounting because he enjoys working with numbers. In high school a teacher had a big influence on him, so he decided to be a teacher. The toughest part of teaching today, from his point of view, would be all of the paperwork. If a student of his goes to college for business, they should have gained basic knowledge from his classes.

When I asked Mr. Nederhoff how he would handle a student sleeping in his class, he said, "One time my student fell asleep and the bell rang, and I let him sleep." He thinks detentions are only necessary if it is deserved. He likes to take care of problems right away so detentions aren't needed. His favorite part about Keota is the small school atmosphere. Mr. Nederhoff loves that no day of teaching is the same. I enjoyed getting to know Mr. Nederhoff a little better.

### THE ART OF MS. MILLER



BY ANNA DUWA

Just recently, I had the pleasure of interviewing Keota High School's art teacher, Ms. Miller. You may have seen her standing in the student lounge, conversing with other teachers and greeting students as they pass. Ms. Mary Colleen Miller has worked at Keota High School since 1998, a proud teacher for 19 years. Ms. Miller explains that her job consists of a few roles. Those roles include working as a K-12 art teacher, our yearbook advisor, and a helpful prom sponsor. Ms. Miller graduated from EMC Harrisonburg, Virginia. She also went to JMU for many of her art classes and finished her schooling at Iowa Wesleyan in Mount Pleasant, Iowa so that she could become a teacher.

When questioned as to why Ms. Miller chose the teaching profession, she said that she enjoyed working with students and she loves teaching art, especially to the younger children. Her favorite part about teaching is that class always changes when new students come around, so they have new interests in projects. She and the students get to learn more about them as time goes on. She once thought she wanted to teach web design, but decided that it would come with too much pressure, so she tossed that idea. Ms. Miller said that if given the opportunity to change her profession, she would choose to still be a teacher. However, she is one of many staff members who does not enjoy the professional development aspect of teaching. She would change the way professional development is geared to all, making it more individual and dealing with specific subjects instead of a general, overall topic.

When inquired about what her favorite subject to teach was, Miller responded with, "That's really hard. Probably Art 1, because it touches on everything, though my favorite part is drawing and teaching

students to sketch in depth and showing them new techniques." Her system of student work evaluation consists of looking at the child's work ethic, time management, originality of the piece, use of materials, and the execution. Fortunately, Ms. Miller's art classes are for everyone, as students who may lack enthusiasm or struggle with core classes are welcome and usually find a home or safe zone in art classes. And don't be afraid of accidentally falling asleep in class. Ms. Miller understands that classes and homework can get tiring, so she will come over and wake you gently, but she will expect that it will not happen often.

Students will gain the ability to think in a different way when taking Ms. Miller's class. Creative thinking is a whole other brain function, because that side ties into problem solving and coming up with new ideas. Being a good student and respecting the property of the school and your classmates is important to her, so she watches her class and tries to discuss the repercussions of the destruction of school property.

After asking her about her high school years, I learned that Ms. Miller loved her teachers; they were really nice when she went to Mount Pleasant. Mrs. Anderson, her English teacher, was a kind woman and Ms. Miller loved her. Mr. Pugh was her Art teacher and he taught a good foundation in Art, as well as others whom she also enjoyed. Her high school self, as she described it, was extremely creative, as her favorite subject was Art. She first took an interest in art when she was a child. Before even getting into Kindergarten, she was so excited for that aspect of school. Ms. Miller likes many things, such as going to flea markets, reading and practicing her art skills. She loves to sew using felt to make little ornaments and key chains. Believe it or not, in high school she once dated a man from Namibia, Africa! Her motivation to do her job everyday is the students she teaches and their interests. She enjoys her job a lot, as well as the children she teaches, though she wishes that they would calm down a bit. I enjoyed learning more about our Art teacher and I give her big thanks for allowing me to interview her.

Welcome to the first issue of The Eagle's Wing for the 2017-2018 school year.  
Over the next couple of weeks, The Eagle's Wing staff will be introducing you to our teachers at Keota High School.  
We enjoyed getting to know them, and we hope you will too!

### GREINER GETS STARTED AT KEOTA



BY FRANKIE JOHNSON

Shelly Greiner is new to the teaching staff at Keota High School and currently teaches Algebra 1 as well as Pre-Algebra. Prior to working at Keota, Mrs. Greiner taught math for 33 years at the Washington School District. She graduated from Sigourney High School and then UNI, where her favorite courses were education classes. When she was in high school, Mrs.

Greiner was involved in numerous extra-curricular activities, including Student Council and many sports. She feels these activities helped her get along and communicate with others. Her favorite high school teacher was her math teacher, Don Baldus. She said he instilled the love of learning into her and was a big part of why she became a math teacher. Baldus doubled as Mrs.

Greiner's softball coach and she loved that he was a great motivator. She stated, "He knew how to get the best out of his coaches and players," which is one of the qualities she liked best about him. When asked why she chose the teaching profession, she said because she loves the interaction with students. Her favorite part about being a teacher is watching the students grow and develop, and having the opportunity to instill the love of learning into students. This is why when asked if she could pick any job, she says she would still be a teacher.

When asked if she could only listen to one radio station for the rest of her life, Mrs. Greiner said she would pick the country station, 96.5. One of her hobbies includes going to the lake, where she likes to boat and water ski. She also enjoys jogging, gardening, traveling and playing or watching sports. Some words she would use to describe herself include: outgoing, athletic, caring, and passionate. She also said she considers herself to be well-organized. If she had a million dollars, Mrs. Greiner would share it with her kids, give to charity, and travel. One of her biggest fears is having one of her sons go to war if a draft were to happen, or if any of her fam-

ily member were to get sick with a serious illness. I asked Mrs. Greiner, "What is the last thing she would do before departing this world, if she knew ahead of time?" She responded that she would make sure to spend as much time as possible with her family and grandchildren.

When asked what books or concepts have influenced her the most in her professional development, Mrs. Greiner replied with the book, "No excuses," by Kyle Maynard. Next, I asked her to name a fact about herself that her students would never believe, to which she responded that she was a certified Dental Assistant prior to becoming a teacher. I asked Mrs. Greiner if she could eliminate one part of her job, what would it be, and her answer was nothing at Keota, but when she was at Washington she disliked the Professional Development meetings. If Mrs. Greiner could change public schools, she would do away with certain mandates and change the school lunches. If she had to teach a different subject, Mrs. Greiner thought for a while and said she would teach physical education, because of her love for physical activity and staying active. I'm very glad that I got the chance to interview and learn more about one of Keota's newest additions, Mrs. Greiner.

### GETTING TO KNOW MRS. AMELON



BY JOLEE WALKER

Alyssa Nicole Amelon is the 7th - 12th grade Ag teacher and FFA Advisor at Keota High School. After graduating from Mid-Prairie High School in 2009, she proceeded on to Iowa State University to study Ag and Life Science Agricultural Education and Agricultural Business. She graduated from Iowa State in 2013 and will receive her Masters Degree from Drake University for Professional Leadership and Administration in 2018. Mrs. Amelon has been an Agricultural Instructor for five years now. She has taught three years at Keota High School, and two years previously at North Mahaska High School. Mrs. Amelon currently teaches many different classes, includ-

ing Agricultural Food and Natural Resources, Animal Science, Plant Science, 7th and 8th grade Ag, Ag Business, Ag Metals, Ag Construction, Sr. Ag Shop, College Animal Science 113, and College Horticulture 221. She said that students that have taken her course should have obtained a basic understanding of Agriculture and general life lessons by the time they have completed the course.

Mrs. Amelon has filled many roles in her position, such as a Teacher Leadership Compensation Mentor and Building Leader. Mrs. Amelon enjoys her job here at Keota, and says she would not change anything about her job if she had the option. She contributes toward

the development of our school by embracing positivity and making sure that all students are succeeding. Students matter most in Mrs. Amelon's perspective. She said that when she has students at different learning levels in the classroom she uses differential instruction, and teaches to the students instead of to the class as a whole. Mrs. Amelon has arranged a few field trips for her classes over the past year, aside from FFA trips, including greenhouse trips and the Farm Progress Show. If she could change anything about her current position, she would choose to have better resources for student success, such as technology and the environment. Amelon values quality relationships with students, parents, and community members most. She said that defiant students who lack respect for themselves and others are her least-favorite part of her job. If she could change the public schools in any way, she would choose for the students to learn for the sake of learning, not the GPA. Mrs. Amelon said that if she could pick any career, she would choose to be an Agricultural Lobbyist on Capitol Hill, because she could share an accurate story of U.S. Farmers and Ranchers.

Mrs. Amelon's biggest fear is failure, and she gets motivated by success and continuous improvement. She stays organized by picking up after school every-

day and making sure that everything is tidy. Mrs. Amelon loves exercising, and uses this to cope with stress. She also loves gardening and spending time with family and friends. When I asked Mrs. Amelon if she could describe herself in five words, she said "growth mindset, tenacity, personable, organized, and dedicated." If she had a million dollars, she said that she would create a scholarship foundation with the money. Mrs. Amelon said that her most embarrassing moment was when she was County Fair Queen and she went to a fancy dinner reception. She was eating a salad and her cherry tomato flew off of her plate and hit a guy wearing a sports coat sitting across the room at a different table. She said that one fact that her students would never believe would be that she cannot swim, and she does not like swimsuits.

It was nice interviewing Mrs. Amelon and getting to learn a little more about her.

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