

## December Monthly Mustang Staff



Nate Haag is the Physical Science, Anatomy and Physiology, Physics and Science Seminar teacher at GRHS. In addition to his classroom duties Mr. Haag is the Assistant High School Football and Track Coach, as well as Sophomore Class sponsor Mr. Haag has three degrees from Chadron State College, a Bachelor's of Science with an option in Environmental studies- May 2001; a Bachelor's of Science in Education with a Natural Science Field Endorsement- May 2003; and a Master's of Education in Administration-May 2010.

Mr. Haag has been married to his wife Marti for 17 years. They have two daughters. Berklie who is a junior and Brenna who is an 8th grader. They live in Rushville. The Haags enjoy spending time with my family, hunting, fishing, camping, boating, traveling, watching football and baseball, golfing, coaching, and spending time at our cabin. Mr. Haag has been coaching and teaching for 16 years.

When asked what is something he is passionate about, Mr. Haag answered, "I am very passionate about bow hunting deer. I love sitting in a tree stand and observing nature. Watching birds, squirrels, coyotes, deer, etc. is relaxing and a way for me to unwind after a week of work. It also gives me time by myself to think and reflect about what is going on in my everyday life"

In regards to his strength as a teacher, Mr. Haag replied, "I feel one strength I have as a teacher is that I am able to communicate well with my students and I try to relate science to real world applications so that it makes it relevant to them."

According to Mr. Haag a successful school year is, "One in which the students do well in their science classes. They do well on their tests at the end of the year, we have fun in class, and they learn something new."

Mr. Haag mentioned that, "My favorite memories in school are coaching football. Watching kids compete and give it their all is exciting for me. It's fun then to see some of the young men I have coached years later and have them talk about the fun times they had on the field. That is what coaching is about for me, competing and giving everything they have for the team"

When asked what was one thing he wanted his students to take away from their time in his classroom he answered, "That they had fun in my class and learned something while they were there."

If he had total control of Gordon-Rushville Public Schools one suggestion for improvement Mr. Haag had was, "If money was not an issue I would build our students a new state of the art school with 2 gymnasiums with several locker rooms, new field turf football field and track, new weight room, an auditorium for plays and music concerts, top notch science labs, and classrooms with all of the latest up to date technology."

Finally when Mr. Haag was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? He replied, "I would have to

say my Grandma Cox. She was the only one of my 4 grandparents that I didn't really get to say goodbye to. She was an awesome lady. I would ask her what she thinks of my girls”



Cathy Hood is the 5th Grade teacher at Rushville Elementary School. Mrs. Hood has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Elementary Education from Chadron State College.

Mrs. Hood is married to her husband Neal and they live on a farm/ranch north of Clinton where they raise wheat, corn, sunflowers, hay, cows, calves, chickens, cats, dogs and kids. They have three sons. Taylor is the oldest and he is graduating from SCC in December. Sam is 1/2 way through his freshman year at CSC and Matt is a junior at GRHS. Mrs.

Hood commented that “Our lives have been blessed and busy!”

When asked about something she is passionate about, Mrs. Hood replied, “I love history and reading! Therefore, I have a huge collection of books and a habit of going to auctions to collect antiques of all sorts. Also, any kid-related activity especially watching the boys play football and wrestle!”

In regards to her strengths as an educator Mrs. Hood stated, “Patience. I try hard to get to know my students and to be patient with the process. I expect mindful behaviors that foster caring and kindness.” Mrs. Hood described a successful school year as, “ I would feel it has been a successful year by seeing how my students have grown academically and mindfully so that middle school is a good transition for them.”

Mrs. Hood stated that “She has a favorite school memory about bats! I'm fond of all things furry and have been known to "wrangle" a few live as well as dead bats from our building. Seriously, anytime a student is successful in their understanding is a favorite memory!”

One thing Mrs. Hood wants her students to take away from their time in her classroom is, “Kindness. We as a staff work hard on building mindful behaviors and respect of differences. I have seen great success with our students and how teaching them to be mindful leads them to success in all areas of their lives.”

When asked, If you had total control, what would be one thing you would do to improve Gordon-Rushville Public Schools? Mrs. Hood stated “Money seems to be a huge factor in providing the opportunities, curriculum and materials that would benefit our students and I wish that I could provide everyone their wish lists. We can always look for what needs improved in our buildings but, at the end of the day, I would make sure that all of us are here for the students!”

Finally when Mrs. Hood was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She replied, “I'm

too shy for that! But, if I could I would love to speak to my grandmother and ask her more about my family.!”



Sheryl Giles is the Pre-school teacher at Gordon Elementary School. Mrs. Giles completed her Bachelor’s degree in Early Childhood and Elementary Education from the University of Nebraska at Kearney. Mrs. Giles is married to her husband, Stephen, and they celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in June. They have two children, Kylee is a nursing student at UNMC and Zac is a junior at GRHS. Mrs. Giles loves

spending time with my family and reading.

When asked what was something she is passionate about, Mrs. Giles replied, “I am passionate about my teaching. I love seeing my students learn and grow. One of my favorite things is having former students stop by my classroom to chat.”

In regards to her teaching strengths Mrs. Giles stated, “As a teacher, I feel like my strengths are being organized and prepared for pretty much anything in the classroom.” Mrs. Giles described a successful school year as, “A successful school year would be all of my students learning and progressing.”

When it comes to school memories, Mrs. Giles mentioned that “I attended elementary school in a small school and one of my favorite memories was checking out mystery books from the bookmobile.” When asked what was one thing she wanted her students to take away from their time in her classroom, she replied, “I hope my students remember that learning can be fun!”

If Mrs. Giles had total control of Gordon-Rushville Schools she would enhance

Gordon-Rushville's Early Childhood programs to meet the needs of our communities

Finally when Mrs. Giles was asked, If you could have dinner with one person, living or

deceased, who would that be, and what is one question you would ask them? She answered,

“I would have dinner with Elvis Presley and ask him where he has been for the last forty years!”