

Two new teachers join Gothenburg schools

Written by Elizabeth Barrett
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One of District 20's new educators moved from Valentine in July.

The other has been a paraeducator at Gothenburg Public Schools for 3 years.

Tom Scott, who taught social studies in Valentine and coached for the Badgers, will do the same for the Swedes.

Scott will teach grades 10-12 and moves from assistant wrestling coach in Valentine to head wrestling coach.

He's also an assistant football coach.

The 1996 Omaha Ralston graduate said he really likes Gothenburg and had a good relationship with the Swedes through Southwest conference activities.

"There are good people here and the community is kind," he said.

One of the strengths Scott said he brings to the job is first-hand knowledge of historical sites.

Through a three-year grant for rural social studies teachers, he traveled the country visiting historical sites like Gettysburg, Philadelphia and locations in the Southwest.

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Much of what Scott saw has been implemented in the classroom and will be shared with local students.

What he strives for is “getting the most out of kids educationally and socially and inspiring them to be great citizens in the community.”

Scott said he’s also coached teams in two state-title football games and has been part of a successful wrestling program at Valentine.

He has a bachelor’s degree in education from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and a master’s from the University of Nebraska at Omaha in educational administration and supervision.

Scott taught and coached nine years in Valentine. He student-taught and later did substitute teaching for Millard West where he also helped coach football and wrestling.

He is married to Carolyn Scott.

The couple likes to work out, including the running of half marathons. They also enjoy company, family and friends and sporting events.

Amy Harrison of Gothenburg is the new high ability learning teacher.

The Trenton High School graduate will teach gifted students part-time.

“I find that area of education fascinating,” Harrison said. “It’s also fun for me to create lessons and activities that challenge those students that need an extra challenge.”

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Harrison received a teaching degree from Chadron State College, with a minor in library media, last May.

She did most of her degree on-line, except for classes in North Platte four nights a week the first semester. Harrison student taught at Cozad Public Schools last semester.

The mother of three said she always planned to get a teaching degree but wanted to raise her children first.

As a paraeducator, she said she saw how progressive the district is and wanted to be part of it.

Harrison said her teaching philosophy revolves around the notion that all kids can learn.

“Our job as teachers is to create the desire for them to be lifelong learners,” she said. “It’s up to us to motivate and challenge.”

Her strengths are having a positive attitude, an ability to be flexible and a positive relationship with school staff.

She is married to Kully Harrison who manages Bloedorn Lumber in North Platte.

Their children are: Dalton, 14; Brady, 11; and Kaitlyn, 9.

During leisure time, Harrison likes to research ways to use technology and read, especially non-fiction.

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