

GHS grads to teach in District 20

Written by Elizabeth Barrett

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Rubenthaler, Jessep new Dudley teachers

A desire to return to their home school district is what prompted two Gothenburg High School graduates to apply for and get teaching jobs in District 20.

Nicole (Saum) Rubenthaler will teach fourth grade and Brittany (Krepcik) Jessep is a first-grade teacher at Dudley Elementary.

Rubenthaler, a 2005 GHS graduate, attended the University of Nebraska-Lincoln where she received a bachelor of science degree in elementary education in 2011.

She student taught at Dudley with the same fourth-grade team she'll be part of when school starts Thursday.

After graduation, she took a job as a care coordinator at Region II Human Services in North Platte and worked with adults with mental illness and substance dependence.

Since Rubenthaler was born and raised in Gothenburg, she said she always hoped to get back to the community and become part of the school system.

"I finally found that opportunity," she said.

Her biggest challenge as a first-year teacher, Rubenthaler said, is learning the social studies curriculum that includes Nebraska history.

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Rubenthaler is married to another Gothenburg graduate, Jake Rubenthaler, who works in the dry fertilizer department at All Points Cooperative.

The couple had their first child, Blake, on June 28.

In her spare time, Rubenthaler enjoys being outdoors, reading and spending time with family.

First-grade teacher Brittany Jesseph is a 2006 GHS graduate.

Jesseph took classes at Mid-Plains Community College and Chadron State College, earning a bachelor of science degree in elementary education (with a minor in social science) in May of 2013.

Last spring, she student taught at Dudley.

Jesseph said she's always wanted to teach in Gothenburg and, through student teaching, has come to appreciate the staff and administration.

As far as challenges, Jesseph said it's probably getting to know all the programs such as reading and familiarizing herself with everything associated with teaching first grade.

"There's a learning curve even though I've subbed here," she said.

Jesseph is married to Andy Jesseph and the couple has three children: Alaric, 7; Axtyn, 5; and Addisyn, 3.

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She likes spending time with family and at Jeffrey Lake and Harry Strunk Lake and traveling and camping.

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