



The Bluebird

A Publication for the Alumni of Goessel High School

Volume 8 Number 1

Winter - 2020

ALUMNI PARTNERSHIP DAY



Thursday, October 17, 2019, Goessel High School hosted the Alumni Partnership Day. All high school students had the opportunity to connect with ten alumni who shared about their journey after graduating from Goessel High School. Most came from within the state of Kansas, with one alumni coming from California.

Students began the morning by gathering in the auditorium. Landon Jordan, '01 pastor at New Anthem Community Church in Park City, was the keynote speaker. He helped students realize it's okay to not know what your next step in life is. It's okay to not know your future.

Contact Information

abrahamsi@usd411.org

Editor: Ilona Abrahams

Alumni Association
P.O. Box 68
Goessel, KS. 67053

Become a member of
The Goessel Alumni
Facebook Page

The alumni newsletter is
also posted on the
alumni page of the USD
411 website.

Presenters included: Sports Information Director Joshua Booth, '12 works at Bethel College. Tara Coopriider, '03 works as a high school counselor and coach in the Haven School district. Patrol Officer Conner Davis, '15 works for the McPherson Police Department. Computer Programming presenter John Goerzen, '97 is a senior software developer with Fastly. Evan Janzen, '06 is a Bioengineering Researcher and is a doctoral candidate at the University of California. Manager for Habitat for Humanity Kellin Jenkins, '06 works in the Kansas City area. Exercise Specialist Kevin Nickel, '99 works for Pinnacle Sports Performance in Hutchinson. Rebecca Hill Stiles, '02 works as a Licensed Social Worker for Sunflower Health Plan. Structural Design Engineer Janessa Wedel Walters, '07 is a lead engineer at Spirit AeroSystems in Wichita.

During their presentations, presenters included tips for success: Be ready to show up mentally as well as physically. Look for ways to over communicate with your boss. Check your pride—you can always do more. It's okay to ask for help.

It was noted that most adults will have at least seven careers. Nothing is ever permanent. Be aware that what you start with isn't necessarily what you end up with.

Students and staff enjoyed hearing from these alumni as they offered career advice and informed students about the wide variety of opportunities available in the professional world.

Alumni Partnership Day



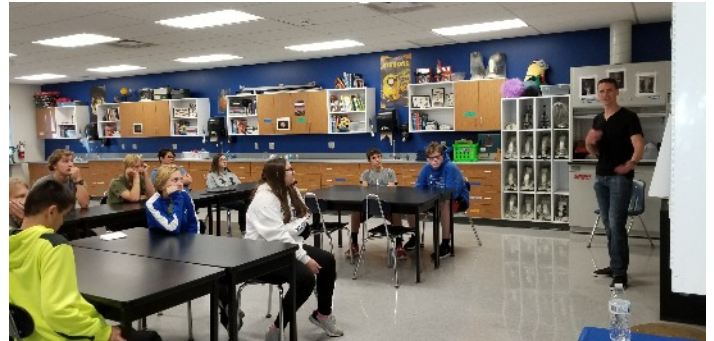
John Goerzen, Janessa Wedel Walters, Kevin Nickel, Evan Janzen, Kellin Jenkins, Joshua Booth, Conner Davis, Rebecca Hill Stiles, Tara Coopridner



Keynote Speaker: Landon Jordan



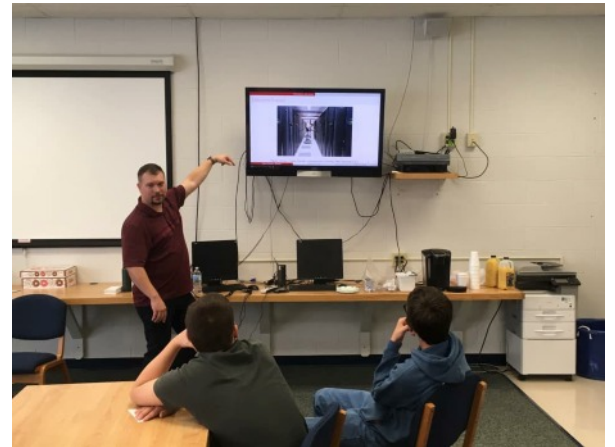
Presenter: Kellin Jenkins



Presenter: Evan Janzen



Presenter: Conner Davis



Presenter: John Goerzen

Comments shared by students:

“One of the things I enjoyed the most is seeing them be really proud of their jobs.”

“He talked about following your passion but also be open to change. Take chances. All the speakers touched on this and it was really insightful.”

“It really helped me have different perspectives on different jobs.”

Goessel Superintendent and Principal Announces Retirement

On December 9, Dr. John Fast submitted his letter of resignation. Dr. Fast has been an educator for 38 years. He has served in an administrator role for 23 of those years at Goessel. He began his career at Goessel in August of 1996 as grade school principal. In August of 2004 after the resignation of Glen Davis, he assumed the role of superintendent of USD 411 as well as principal of the then, K-6 building.

During his tenure, he has been dedicated to not only the school district but also the community. Dr. Fast has been committed to maintaining the current structures, while keeping the district financially strong. In 2016 he led a bond issue for improvement of school facilities. The bond issue passed with an unprecedented 97 percent.

He indicated he has enjoyed working with teachers, staff, and students and the joy they bring him on a daily basis. Fast expressed gratitude to the parents, patrons of the school district, and the board of education. Fast ends his letter by stating, "Our school culture of high expectations combined with a caring staff willing to go the second mile for students while treating each other as family is what makes us unique."

Dr. Fast plans to retire at the end of the current school year. The board reluctantly accepted his resignation.

Goessel High School Alumni

Only alumni who contribute a yearly fee of \$5 every January, will receive the newsletter via the mail. The contribution will be used to pay for the cost of printing and mailing the newsletter. Newsletters will continue to be sent to all current email addresses. As a Goessel High Alumni I would like to continue to receive this newsletter through the postal service.

Name _____ Class of _____

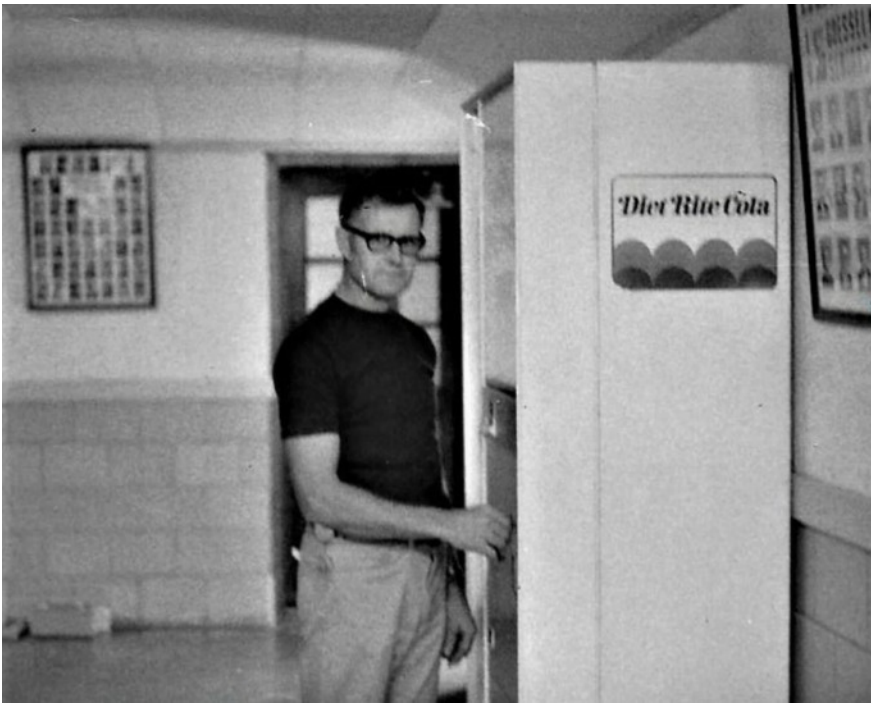
Address _____

City _____ State _____

Zip _____

Clip and mail to:

GHS Alumni Association, P.O. Box 68, Goessel, KS. 67053



LeRoy Funk began working at Goessel High School as the head of maintenance in 1973. He loved having the opportunity to visit with students while he mopped the halls and cleaned the classrooms. For some students, working for LeRoy was punishment for an unacceptable behavior, but LeRoy often used this time as an opportunity to listen to a student's concern. He shared a positive attitude, a caring spirit, and a generous heart with kids as well as staff.

After keeping the school in immaculate condition for twenty years, LeRoy retired in 1993. After retiring he enjoyed traveling, hunting, watching sports, and following his grandchildren and great grandchildren's activities.

LeRoy passed away on November 24, 2019.

Alumni Association
P. O. Box 68
Goessel, KS. 67053

NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION
US POSTAGE PAID
PERMIT # 8
GOESSEL, KS 67053