

**In the News**

**PSAT and ASVAB Tests**

The PSAT will be offered to interested juniors who sign up to take it on Tuesday, October 17, at both schools.

\*The ASVAB will be offered Wednesday Oct. 11, ASVAB test, all juniors and any seniors interested in retaking.

**Career Expo**

On Wednesday Oct. 25, sophomores have the opportunity to attend the Northern Valley Career Expo in Grand Forks.

**No School**

There will be no school for students on Monday, Oct. 9 due to a teachers' workshop.

Also, there will be no school on Thursday, Oct. 19 or Friday, Oct. 20 due to EA Workshops.

There will be no school on Monday, Nov. 6 for students or staff in observation of fall celebration.

**Parent-Teacher Conferences Oct. 9**

There will be parent-teacher conferences on Monday, Oct. 9 from 1 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Elementary teachers will be scheduling individual conferences.

We will be offering a meal from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the commons as well as a Winter Wear Clothing swap.

**Winter Clothing Swap**

Northome School is hosting a clothing swap on Oct. 9, 2023, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. in the Northome School Commons. Bring in gently used winter wear to swap or donate. Parents and students are welcome to swap, donate or pick up the winter wear items. You can drop items at the school anytime from now until conferences.

If you have any questions email Stephanie Skaret/Sskaret@northome.k12.mn.us.

*The Best of Everything*  
**New school year brings few but important changes**

By Caden W. Troy  
*The Mustang Express*

A new school year is upon us, bringing new changes, new insights, and most importantly, new news. That said, Northome School hasn't had too many changes, actually. Most major alterations pertain to all schools in the state, and what unique ones we had were quite minor. Realistically, the 2023-2024 school year will likely shape up to be a perfectly average, good year for all.

Among the state matters are free lunch for all, implementation of a shot clock for varsity basketball, and the issue of teacher shortages.

Last year, Governor Tim Walz signed the Free School Meals bill into law, and it provides exactly what it says with no caveats. Superintendent Jeremy Tammi said this will help all area families, regardless of financial status.

The Minnesota State High School League (MSHSL) approved the implementation of a 35-second shot clock for varsity basketball in

late 2021 and required its application for the 2023-2024 school year. This meant that Northome School had to buy new scoreboards, the funds of which (\$13,000 for two scoreboards) came out of the school district's general fund and no compensation was provided by the MSHSL. Protective nets are to be installed sometime soon.

The teacher shortage is not limited to just Minnesota, but rather the whole nation. The problem has caused some shifts within Northome School. However, our situation is far less dire than some other schools. Superintendent Tammi says that the school district has been fortunate that all classrooms are staffed by licensed teachers.

As for changes unique to Northome, a few have been implemented including free hat-wearing, an update on murals, food-sharing restrictions, an extended scope of intervention groups, and stricter tardy rules.

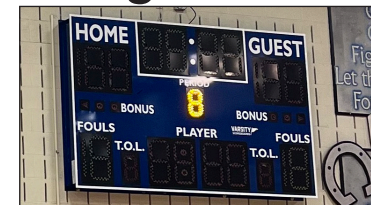
Grades 7-12 can now wear hats for free during the school day. Last year, students who paid a dollar

could don hats on Fridays. This year, K-6 will only get to wear hats on Fridays. As long as students are not wearing something utterly obnoxious, they are to feel free to equip their hat whenever. Just don't wear any hoods.

This summer, several murals were painted over. Such murals were the elementary train mural, the preschool mural, and the mustang in the big gym. They simply were getting old. New murals will be painted sometime in the future by Northome School art students and anyone else who is interested.

Unpackaged food may not be shared between students during breakfast, lunch, and probably ever. It's a sanitary issue, plus last year had an issue with food theft. Superintendent Tammi said that students shouldn't have been sharing even before this change. Fully packaged food, though, can still be shared at the Share Table during lunch and breakfast.

Northome School will be extending the aid of "What I Need" (WIN) intervention groups to sev-



enth and eighth graders. It was only for K-6 in the past. In addition to regular study halls, grades 7-8 will have study skills and instruction for better high school preparedness.

Students will work on organization, study habits, test-taking strategies, problem solving, and other useful skills. Principal Mackenzie Lehn who spearheads the intervention program stated, "My hope and purpose for implementing [it is] to prepare our seventh and eighth graders so they're successful in high school."

Unexcused tardies, both in the morning and between classes, will now be punished on a three-strike system. After the third, students will receive after-school detention. This change was mainly to ensure consistency existed between teachers in terms of tardy punishment.

**Financial Aid Information Night Monday, Oct. 10, at Northome School**

By Christine Lundin  
*The Mustang Express*

FAFSA time is almost here. The FAFSA, or Free Application for Federal Student Aid, is the required form used to apply for federal and state grants, work-study, and federal student loans. The financial aid process can be overwhelming, especially if you haven't yet had to navigate it.

The FAFSA for the 2023-2024 school year opens on October 1, 2022. Parents, and students if they filed taxes, complete a FAFSA using their 2021 taxes. Many programs are need-based and shouldn't run out of money, but it is still a good idea to have your application in

early. This allows you to start planning and budgeting now.

To help out seniors and their parents, there will be a financial aid information night on Monday October 10th at 6:30 PM at Northome School in the FACS classroom. This is open to both Northome and Kelliher students and parents. A representative from the Bemidji State University financial aid office will give a presentation on the FAFSA process and be available to answer questions from parents and students. While it is geared toward seniors, juniors are welcome to come as well and get a head start on their post-high school planning. If you have already gone through


the application process, it may still be helpful for you to come and get a refresher.

The federal student aid website is located at [www.fafsa.gov](http://www.fafsa.gov) and contains links to the application itself, along with several information pages and tools to help you with the financial aid process. There is also an option to get an estimate of what your financial aid award would be before applying or if you are wondering what that would look like for a younger student not ready to apply.

Even if you are concerned that your family income will not qualify you for grants, federal student loans generally come with better

terms than loans in the private lender market. You will still need to complete the FAFSA to be eligible for these loans. There are also some loan forgiveness programs tied to specific career fields/programs and other incentives that make taking advantage of federal student loans available to you a wise investment. As with any loan, make sure to do your homework on how much the school you are attending will cost and only borrow the amount you need.

We hope to see you on Monday, Oct. 10. Bring a parent and your questions; this is a great opportunity to have them answered by a financial aid professional.



**From the Principal**

*Knowledge is Power!  
Where will it take you?*

**A Message from Ms. MacKenzie Lehn**

It has been a great start to the school year! The energy and enthusiasm can be felt as you walk down the halls. Students and staff have jumped aboard our Road Map to Success! Each homeroom has created a "Roadmap to Success," that will help guide them to reach their goals throughout the year.

If you are in the building, I encourage you to check them out. Students will be creating individual road maps that will highlight their individual goals for the year. Some students will focus on academics, while others might focus on attendance or friendships. Their Road Map will guide THEIR journey.

One of my favorite parts of my job is spending time with the students in their classrooms. I was lucky to have the opportunity to meet with each elementary classroom and share a story to kick off the best year ever!

We read, "One Word for Kids: A Great Way to Have Your Best Year Ever," by Jon Gordan. In this story, the teacher gives her class an assignment: to find the one word that will help them have their best year ever. To discover their one word, they must look inside themselves, look up, and look out.

I challenged each of our students to discover their one word for the year. I have loved getting to hear everyone's one word!

I also had the opportunity to meet with all of our high schoolers. We reviewed our school routines and expectations. Although there are not any major changes this year, this was a great opportunity to review and remind students of the expectations we have in place in order to maintain a safe and productive learning environment each day.

Students were given the opportunity to ask questions and share ideas for the year. All of our students continue to strive to be responsible, respectful and safe.

**WIN Groups Have Started!**

Our K-6 WIN groups are up and running and 7th and 8th grade groups will be starting soon. The "What I Need" Instructional Block at Northome School, commonly referred to as the "W.I.N. Block," is used to provide students with additional learning opportunities that are at their instructional level in math and reading. The W.I.N. groups are led by classroom teachers and also by Supplemental Pro-

**New year starts with a Road Map to Success**

grams teachers, Special Education teachers, and other support staff that enter the classrooms for the W.I.N. blocks. The W.I.N. groups are fluid and are formed based on current data collected by teachers. Classroom teachers, Supplemental Programs teachers, Special Education teachers, and other support staff collaborate and form new groups approximately every 10 days. Any child who attends Northome School can be a part of a W.I.N group.

**Let's celebrate the POSITIVE!**

We are continuing to implement PBIS (Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports) this year. This practice helps to develop and maintain an environment where all students can succeed. We will continue to have a monthly theme that we will focus on. Students will receive a Pride Slip when they are seen helping a friend or demonstrating the characteristics of our monthly theme.

We will continue our weekly Pride Slip drawings as well as our monthly all school celebrations. Our monthly celebrations will include friendly competitions and games for students to participate in. We have AMAZING students and staff and it is important that we celebrate all of the great things that are happening under our roof!

**Conferences are coming!**

Parent-teacher conferences will be held on Monday, Oct. 9th, from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. This is a great time for families to connect with their students' teachers and find out what is happening in our classrooms. Families will have the opportunity to check student progress, ask questions and get resources.

Elementary teachers will schedule a time with each individual family. High School teachers will schedule a time to meet with families if their student is receiving a D or lower. High school teachers will also be available for any families to drop in.

We will be offering a meal from 4:30 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. in the commons as well as a Winter Wear Clothing swap. If you have winter gear that you or your children have grown out of or no longer use (still in good condition), please feel free to bring them in and swap them out for something new/ slightly used for the upcoming winter season.

**Food Pantry Update!**

Our Food Pantry continues to be open for anyone in need! We restock it one to two times a month in order to rotate inventory and bring in new items. We have a variety of pantry, dry, frozen and refrigerated items available as well as personal hygiene and household items.

We are continuing to partner with Second Harvest Food Shelf and the MN Department of Hu-

man Services in order to serve as an Emergency Food Provider for our families and community. We appreciate everyone's support and donations that have allowed us to provide this resource.

Families can access the Food Pantry during regular school hours and/ or request to have packs sent home with their students. We are here to support anyone in need. Never be too proud to eat!

**NWEA MAP Testing is around the corner!**

Grades K-8 have started their Fall NWEA- MAP testing. This is an assessment that we use for benchmarking and to help guide teacher instruction. Each student in K-8 will complete an assessment portion for reading and math over the next few weeks. The entire assessment is completed on the Ipad or Chromebook within the classroom. Classroom teachers will be sending out specific dates soon.

I am incredibly proud of how hard our students have been working over the last few weeks. Many of them jumped right back into the routine without missing a beat. It is so great to have everyone back!

*Together we go far.  
Where will your Road Map take you?*



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The Mustang Express is published every other Friday during the school year by ISD #363, Northome School. Postage paid at Northome, Minn.

Deadlines

The deadline for most news in the Express is noon

on the Friday the week before publication. Exceptions are obituaries and reports on weekend events

Letters

Letters to the editor and other opinion articles are welcomed. Letters must be signed and include address and phone number for verification of authenticity. We reserve the right to edit lengthy letters.

**Express Staff**

- Juleen Trisko . . . . .Advisor
- Cloey Buentemeier . . . . .Writer/Photographer
- Mariah Hanson . . . . .Writer/Photographer
- Caden Troy . . . . .Writer/Photographer

**Editorial Policy and Guidelines of The Mustang Express**

The school press is governed by the same basic legal rights and responsibilities as the professional press. High school journalists have the right guaranteed in the First Amendment to free expression, insofar as published items may not contain libel or obscenity, invade the privacy of individuals, incite or violate the laws of copyright.

Stated generally, the goals of student publications at Northome High School are to inform, entertain, interpret and provide a sounding board for ideas and opinions of students and faculty of NHS.

In addition, it is understood that publications are primarily designed to serve as a laboratory experience for students interested in learning the techniques of sound journalistic practice. While staff members are expected to strive for professional quality, we recognize that they are engaged in an educational venture, and as such, room for trial and error must be allowed.

While the advisor may provide suggestions about content, the final responsibility rests with the advisor, students and administration.

# ISD #363 is not alone in financial challenges

By **Jeremy Tammi**  
ISD #363 Superintendent

The 2023-2024 school year brings change to the South Koochiching-Rainy River School District. As most readers know, the South Koochiching-Rainy River School Board made the difficult decision to close the Indus school effective July 1, 2023. Needless to say, this has been a challenging and emotional time for our School District.

The decision to close the In-

us School has been challenged at the Minnesota Court of Appeals by some members of our community. The School District's insurance company (EMC) has retained legal counsel through the law firm of Lind Jensen Sullivan & Peterson to represent the School District during the appeal at the expense of EMC.

I understand that the court will review the decision to close the Indus School and determine whether it was necessary and practicable to

close the Indus School in light of the evidence. With the insurance company handling the appeal, I plan to focus on creating a positive experience for our wonderful students and staff and work to ensure that the appeals process will cause little to no disruption to the operations of the school.

As you are no doubt aware, one of the main factors the School Board used when voting to close the Indus campus was due to the financial

challenges that are facing our district and many other districts across the state and country.

ISD #363 is not alone in this situation—this June 29, Minnesota Public Radio article states that many school districts are facing financial challenges: <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/06/29/minnesota-schools-just-got-unprecedented-funding-heres-why-theyre-still-making-cuts>.

Brady Martz will be conducting

the School District's annual audit later this month. Our preliminary numbers show a roughly \$750,000 deficit for Fiscal Year 23. The final audit numbers will be available later this year and will be shared with the School Board.

Some explanations for the deficit include declining enrollment, rising cost of inflation, the remaining amount of the roof construction payments, and increased cost of food and fuel prices.

## Minnesota schools just got unprecedented funding. Here's why they're still making cuts

By **Elizabeth Shockman**  
NPR News  
June 29, 2023

Reprinted with permission

Minnesota schools that used COVID-19 relief money to prop up their budgets are now facing cuts, despite significant investments from the state legislature.

"Yes, there was a historic level of funding approved for education," said Scott Croonquist, executive director of the Association of Metropolitan School Districts.

"But at the same time, we're coming off, obviously, a historic pandemic, which included, as a result, historic inflation," he said. "And then, in addition to the historic funding, really, there are some historic new expectations and requirements for our school districts coming out of the legislative session."

Minnesota lawmakers this year committed to large increases in the per-pupil funding formula and dedicated money for required but underfunded special education and English language learner programming. The money com-

ing from state sources is on top of billions of dollars in COVID relief funds that districts received from the federal government.

Still, many districts are struggling financially.

In Mankato, school leaders laid off 40 personnel. In northern Minnesota, the South Koochiching Rainy River School District is closing one of its two K-12 buildings. The St. Paul school district is making one of the largest K-12 investments in Minnesota history, but has also eliminated 166 staff positions.

In Wayzata, class sizes at some locations are increasing and approximately 40 positions are being eliminated. In Minneapolis, district leaders are warning of an impending financial crisis that will require budget cuts in the tens of millions of dollars.

### Mankato

The southern Minnesota district that serves 8,500 students was among the few in the state that managed to keep their buildings open every day to elementary students during the height of the pandemic in the 2021-2022 academic

year.

Still, it's lost 600 students over the last four years. Mankato schools used federal COVID-19 relief funds to build up its fund balance with plans to deficit spend to keep all its employees this year. But when enrollment losses were larger than expected, it had to cut \$9 million from its budget.

"I think [this is happening in] every district that is similar in our size and in nature and has a lot of different options within the community," said Mankato's director of business services, Amanda Heilman. "Some parents decided they wanted to homeschool, or they decided to go to the non-public school ... It really happened at the peak of COVID."

To cut costs, district leaders adjusted classroom sizes and held off on purchasing new devices. They kept mental health supports for students and refrained from more drastic classroom cuts, but in the end, eliminated 40 staff positions.

Mankato's financial reckoning is something many Minnesota districts are experiencing.

"For districts, the inflationary

pressure has really taken a toll," Croonquist said. "Everything from just utility costs to transportation costs. And then, of course, in the biggest area is staffing costs — districts have had to increase wages, really to just to try to attract the staff they need."

According to testimony from the Minnesota Rural Education Association, the average cost of substitute teachers has risen over 50 percent in the last three years and

health insurance renewals are up 20 to 50 percent. This, combined with rising gas prices and other inflation, has led to an 18 percent erosion in the buying power of state aid to districts over the last 20 years.

If you wish to see the whole story, go to <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2023/06/29/minnesota-schools-just-got-unprecedented-funding-heres-why-theyre-still-making-cuts>.

## RELEASE TIME information

A school bus will be available and the children will board it at 1:55 p.m.; go to Hope Lutheran Church in Northome and reboard the bus at 2:55 p.m. back to school. Our last day will be APRIL 19, 2023. We will follow the school bus rules.

The school requires a permission slip in order for your child to

attend. There will be no charge for Release Time. In order for your child to not attend any particular day, they will need written permission from home stating so.

This year the teaching staff for Release Time will be Pr. Luke and Jeanette Bertson, Jim Pautzke, Ralph Skoe (Hope/Bethesda Lutheran Church), Pr.

Sheldon and Kathy Johnson, Nikki Adegun (Northome Community Church).

If you have any questions or concerns or would like to visit or help out, contact Pr. Shel and Kathy Johnson (Shel cell - 218-556-7615 Kathy cell - 218-556-8640) or Pr. Luke & Jeanette Bertson (L - 701-331-1595 or parsonage 897-5653)

St. Michael  
Church

Saturday  
OCTOBER  
14



ANNUAL FALL  
BOOYA

Northome Senior Center

4 P.M. to 6 P.M.

Take-out and Curbside Pick Up  
(order by the \$8-quart, containers supplied)

Preorders filled first

Preorder by calling Paula at 897-5793 or Penny at 556-1760

or stop by and call 897-5246 from your car

Quilt Raffle Drawing at 6 P.M.

Get your tickets at the booya or at Northome True Value

# New faces, new duties at Northome School

**By Cloey Buentemeier and Mariah Hanson**

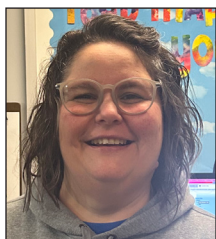
**The Mustang Express**

This year, there are several new faces at Northome School. There are also familiar faces in new places. To introduce them to you, we share their answers to the questions below.

Note, ADSIS stands for Alternative Delivery of Specialized Instructional Services. Para stands Para professional.

Each answered the following questions.

- 1) Why did you choose this job?
- 2) What is your favorite thing about your job?
- 3) Do you have any hobbies?
- 4) What is some advice you would give students?
- 5) What was your favorite subject?
- 6) What is your education experience?
- 7) Why did you choose to come to Northome school?



**Nikki Adegun**  
School Secretary

1) I love working with our students, but I also enjoy supporting staff and families. This position affords me the opportunity to do all 3 in a fun and rewarding place.

2) I truly enjoy going home at the end of the day, knowing I made a difference in someone's life. Even if it is something small, it's enough.

3) Crafting is my jam! I make heirloom journals and digital kits for other makers. I love just about any type of crafting or art. I enjoy playing music with my family and just spending time with them in

general. I enjoy being active in my church and children's ministries.

4) Push through the hard stuff. Character and perseverance are built by pushing through the difficult things, and when you have that "ah-ha" moment or get to the other side, you will have grown and gotten better. Stay the course and find your helpers, there are loads of them around.

5) I always loved English and history in school. I also enjoyed all my music and arts classes.

6) I have worked in some facet of disability services my whole adult life. Before me and my family moved to Northome, I ran the sped Academic support Center at Brooklyn Center High School.

7) I loved the idea of being able to work with students again, but also to work where my nieces, nephews and daughter attend, and also to get to work with my sister and a bunch of great educators.



**Gracie Arhart**  
ADSI

Arhart's job includes my job includes providing reading and math interventions for students in grades kindergarten through grade 8 to help increase academic achievement within the program.

1) I chose this job because I am currently going to school for Elementary Education. I thought this would be an excellent way to improve my educational experience while going to college at the same time.

2) Since this ADSIS position is new to me, I am discovering new things about the job. I love being able to work with students. I enjoy helping kids learn something new and guide them along the way.

3) Many of my hobbies include outdoor related activities. I really enjoy hunting, fishing, kayaking, camping, going on walks with my dogs and just relaxing around a campfire or at the lake with my family and friends.

4) Advice I would give to students is to treat others the way you want to be treated. If you can be

a good person or friend by being kind, having empathy, laughing and showing you care about them, it can brighten someone's entire day.

5) My favorite subject in school from when I was in elementary to college has always been biology. I love learning about and engaging in conservation and all things related to plants and animals.

6) My educational experience includes three years as a paraprofessional. I received my Associates of Arts degree through Bemidji State University and I'm currently enrolled at BSU, majoring in Elementary Education.

7) I chose Northome school because I really like the area and I knew people before working here so I was able to learn my way around and become familiar with the school and staff quickly.

## Lauren Van Beusekson



Grade 5 Teacher

1) I enjoy working with this age group and was excited for the opportunity to help them grow.

2) Getting to know my students

and seeing them grow as learners, while achieving their goals.

3) I enjoy spending time with my family, being outside, photography, and fishing.

4) Always be kind. Always try and do your best. You can always be better than you were yesterday.

5) I enjoy teaching math.

6) This is my third year at northome. Para in 2021, ADSIS interventionist in 2022, and currently teaching fifth. I Attend NDSU and BSU and received my Elementary Education degree.

7) It's close to home and I love that it feels like family when you are in the building, and everyone truly cares about one another.

## Cayla Buentemeier

Para

1) I chose this job because I love working with children.

2) Seeing all the kids smile in the mornings.



3) Cleaning, hunting, and spending time with my family.

4) Set goals, ask for help, keep yourself organized, stay focused, smile

and don't sweat the small stuff. Life is too short.

5) Art.

6) I worked in early childhood for eight years.

7) There are so many wonderful things about Northome School, it would be hard to just pick one.

## Betsy Henning

ADSI

1) I have worked with preschool aged children for a long time. I am ready

to work with older children.

2) My favorite thing about this working job is that I get to work with a lot of different children throughout the day. It gives me the opportunity to get to know everyone here.

3) I love to read and spend time with my children.

4) My favorite subject is reading.

5) Do your work to the best of your ability and be nice to everyone.

6) I have worked in early childhood education for nearly all of my adult life. I worked for KOOTASCA head start as an assistant teacher and later a teacher for nearly ten years. Before that I worked as a teacher for a childcare center in Bloomington, MN for seven years.

7) I chose to work at Northome school because everyone here is very welcoming and works well to provide a positive outcome for all of our students. Another bonus is that my children go to school here.

## Jenny Moen

English 7 and 8  
Elementary Special Education

1) There is a shortage of

teachers and we needed an English teacher. I love teaching and I love our school so I wanted to help. I have always liked English class so I thought why not. I am so excited and thankful. So many people have been awesome to make this work but special shout out to Ms. Trisko who has made this transition a lot easier.

2) I really love teaching. It is fun to be back teaching a class full of kiddos even though teaching my small groups is really great too. My favorite thing is all the fun personalities in the classroom. Everyone brings something different to the table.

3) I have so many hobbies. I have three huge gardens, pets to play with, crafting, reading, crocheting, and a hobby farm that we run during the summer that includes chickens, pigs and bees.

4) Always try to be your best self, you never know who it will impact.

5) English and History.

6) I started my college life at BSU and finished at GCU. I went back to college after my kids were in school, during this time I was a paraprofessional in Blackduck. I taught first grade at St. Mary's for six years. This is my fourth year at Northome.

7) It was a good change for my family closer to home and the small family/community setting.

## Juleen Trisko

English 9, 10, 11 and 12  
Graphic Arts and Journalism

About her new position, Trisko said, "I am back to full time after 28 years of having my mornings off. It has been a big adjustment for my husband and me. We

have to share the bathroom and kitchen at the same time now."

1) I have taught everything but English 11 before. I came back to full time because of the teacher shortage.

2) My favorite part of the job is getting to know the students and also hearing from them once they have graduated.

3) I like tea parties, and I host



a few during the year. I also like crafting of all sorts like: altered books, painting, weaving, crocheting. I read, watch movies, and put together puzzles.

4) Be good. Don't smoke.

5) In high school, my favorite class was Social Studies. We had a lot of good discussions.

6) I graduated from the University of Minnesota, Morris with a B.A in English. I picked up a B.S in English at St. Cloud State. I earned my M.S. in English at Bemidji State University.



**Melanie Hanson**  
Choir

1) This job felt like the right fit. My husband and I are both at Northome and Kelliher Schools in the music department.

2) Teaching students who are respectful and having great administration.

3) Yes. Playing games with my family, sewing, fishing, painting, traveling, singing, performing violin with my husband on the saxophone, and many more hobbies.

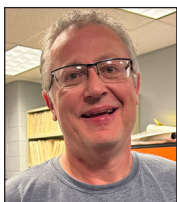
4) Dream Big!

5) Choir

6) I have taught private music lessons for over 25 years. I have taught music at School craft, Red Lake Elementary, Red Lake Mission School, and now Northome and Kelliher.

My undergrad was at Concordia College in Morhead, MN, Masters of music from Youngstown University in Ohio, and Doctor of Musical Arts from The University of Minnesota.

7) The job felt right.



**Michael Hanson**  
Band

1) I chose this job for a number of different reasons: first, I am able to work with

my wife building the music programs here, second, I am currently

in a different season of life, and my goals are vastly different and very focused, last, but not least, I was impressed by the leadership qualities at both schools, as well as the quality of students.

2) The favorite thing about my job, is developing relationships through the learning and enjoyment of music.

I had almost become an electrical engineer, so I love to build and create things using materials, I also am very passionate about the entrepreneurial side where I get to mentor others in life, business- I am passionate about helping people win at life.

3) Beyond that I enjoy, performing music with my wife, hunting, fishing, and spending time with my kids.

4) Never let anyone take away your dream. Live and breathe it and when you think you are ready to give up, keep going. Success is often closer than you think when you reach that point. Remember "you become, what you think about."

5) Music

6) I have studied at the Lawrence University Conservatory of Music, Bachelor of Music in Music education, from Concordia College, a masters of music in saxophone performance from Youngstown State University, and Doctor of Musical Arts in saxophone performance ABD from the University of Minnesota, Twin Cities.

7) It was meant to be, and I am grateful for the opportunity.



**Belita Lom**  
Math Corp

1) Kindergarten through third grade math tutor

2) Math is in everything you do in life, its important to know.

3) Getting to know and help the kids, learn math.

4) I like driving motorcycles and making jewelry.

5) Life is short, make the most of it.

6) I actually liked math, so I would say math.

8) I live in Northome, so it was an easy choice.



**Miranda Olson**  
Grade 3 Teacher

1) I love being a teacher and making a difference in all students' lives. I feel like I can make a difference.

2) I love to be around kids and seeing them "get it." I want to help them have fun and be excited to learn.

3) Gardening, cooking, fishing hunting, and especially hanging out with my family and friends.

4) Always do your best.

5) Science. I had a great science teacher in high school.

6) I went to elementary school in Big Falls. I graduated from Littlefork-Big Falls High School and went straight to Rainy River Community College to get my AA and my AAS in Human Services. I later went to Bemidji State University to finish getting my Early Childhood degree. My degree covers birth through third grade.



**Malisa Schue**  
Para

1) I like working with kids.

2) It is very rewarding seeing the smiles on students' faces when they succeed at something.

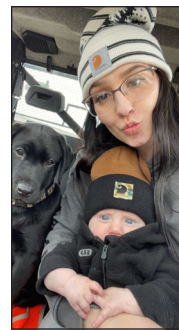
3) My hobbies include hunting, 4-wheeling, gardening, cooking, baking, lots of crafts, making cups and shirts with my Cricket.

4) Stay on task and keep up on your homework. Always treat others with respect. Enjoy these years, they go by so fast.

5) All the electives I took. Photography, Ethnic Cooking, Life Sports, Home-ec. I was not a fan of math, history, science and English.

6) I graduated from Deer River High School.

7) I chose Northome School because this is where my kids go to school and it is close to home.



**Taylor Sears**  
ADSIS

1) I personally love to work with kids.

2) Helping kids and watching them grow everyday.

3) Hunting and fishing.

4) It is okay to not know what you want to do when you grow up. Work hard and try new things. Don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone. Eventually you will figure out the right path for you and your future .

5) Science or Math

6) Falls High School, Rainy River Community College for Liberal Arts, Bemidji State University for Elementary Education.

7) I fell in love with the area and felt like it was a great place to raise my family.



**Danette Spangrud**  
Lead Preschool Teacher

1) I love watching young children solve problems and learn new things.

Being able to help them through an experience and learn something new is very rewarding.

2) Being able to help children learn and grow in a safe and nurturing environment.

3) Crochet, walking my dogs, photography.

4) Enjoy the little things. You never know how much a moment means until its past.

5) I enjoyed journalism very much.

6) I have an AS degree in young child education from Northwest Tech in Bemidji.

7) I always loved how Northome school felt like a community. While in school, I always thought about coming back and working in some way and am very excited to be back where I grew up and watch the kiddos go through the same experience I did.



**Mitiki Stueven**  
Early Childhood Para

1) I like working with children who have different needs.

2) My favorite thing will be working with all the kids in class and getting to know each and everyone.

3) Clean cabins, play volleyball, go swimming, go to tea parties with Lizzie Adegun and hangout with friends.

4) Do your best in school, and listen to your teachers because they want you to succeed when you get older.

5) My favorite subject was history because I liked learning about historic things, and it was easy for me. I also liked journalism because I love to write.

6) I am going to Northwest Technical College in Bemidji for office administration.

7) I chose to come to Northome school because there was an opening in the preschool room, and I also graduated from Northome High School.



**Teresa Weidenborner**  
Para

1) Learning is fun.

2) Working with students.

3) I love sports, but most of all I love being a mom.

4) Never be afraid to ask questions, you are here to learn.

5) Math

6) I'm currently pursuing my degree in education at Bemidji State University.

7) I graduated from Northome High School.

# Lady Mustangs still have time to meet their season’s goals

**By Cloey Buentemeier**  
**The Mustang Express**

The Mustang Girls Volleyball team is half way through its season and still struggling. As of the printing of this paper, the girls are four/ four.

At the start of the season, varsity captain Ella Thayer said, “My goal for our team is to end with a winning season.”

With six number of games left as of this printing, the team could still meet that goal.

“I want our team to be more resilient and confident when facing a good team,” head coach Ms. Anastasia Molnar said.

Assistant coach Ms. Sarah Lindley has a similar goal. “To play with confidence and work together as a team,” she said. “Don’t fixate on mistakes, but learn from them.”

Varsity captain Kenly Hallstrom’s goal focuses more on playing as a team. “Always bring each other up,” she said. “It can be really hard to keep a positive attitude when you’re having a tough game.”

The team has many strengths identified by not only its coaches but also by its players.

Lindley said. “We have good numbers out this year. We have two seniors that bring years of knowledge and skill to lead the team with. We have girls that are quick learners and have the drive to do well.”

Hallstrom and Thayer are the two with the most experience. They are also the team captains.

Hallstrom said that the team is ready to try new things whether that is on or off the court to build team bonding.

“Volleyball is a game of mistakes, literally,” Thayer said. “You will make them. Your best choice is to learn from them and then grow from there.”

“Listen to the older girls,” said Nakiah Heck, A JV captain. “They are not trying to be bossy, they are just trying to help.”

Hallstrom advises the younger players to always work hard for what they want but also have fun doing it. “Focus while you are

at practice” she said, “ so when it comes to game time, you can have fun doing the things you learned.

It’s fun accomplishing something that was hard for you in the beginning.”

They have yet to play some of their toughest opponents. Thayer thinks their toughest opponent will most likely be Lake of the Woods. “They have been a very put together and strong team the past couple of years,” she said, “and they’ve only lost a couple seniors.”

Molnar also believes Lake of the Woods will be tough. She said, “They have strong hitters and are a tough team to beat.”

Heck and Anna Mae Lindner, a JV captain, on the other hand said that Walker will be the toughest.

Hallstrom said, “Walker and Nevis are our toughest competition. They have some really good hitters and are overall pretty good teams.”

Lindley noted that Pine River has always been a very tough team.

Although the goal is winning the games, it isn’t the only thing to enjoy about volleyball.

“My favorite part about volleyball is working together to make awesome plays,” Hallstrom said. “It feels really good to be a part of it and I love cheering loudly afterwards.”

Heck said she gets a lot out of being part of the team. She said it is great “being able to learn and

watch everyone else around me learn also.”

Thayer said, “My favorite thing in volleyball is to get a good kill and turn around to see your teammates mouths all wide open and hyping you up. It can be such a fun, upbeat game with your teammates.”

## Need a little extra cash?

Northome School is looking for people to work games.

### Volleyball

- C-team clock

### Basketball

- Referee C-team
- C-team clock – boys’ basketball



Call Mustang A.D. Dan Alto at 218-647-8286 ext 1322, if interested in any of these positions.



Captain Anna Mae Lindner

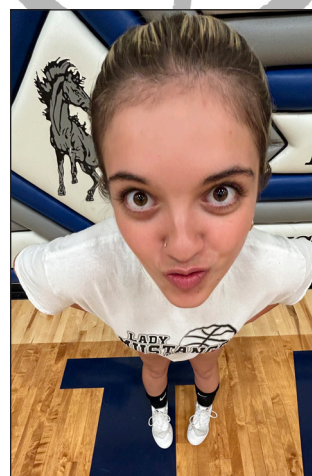


Captain Ella Thayer

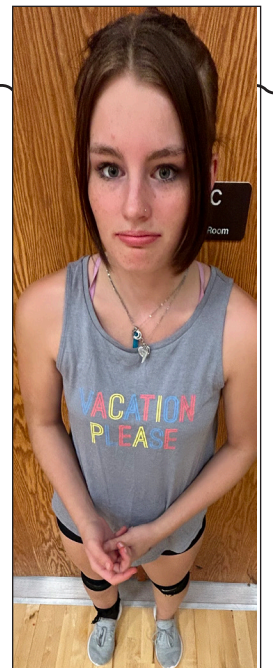
Coach Anastasia Molnar



Coach Sarah Lindley



Captain Kenly Hallstrom



Captain Nakiah Heck



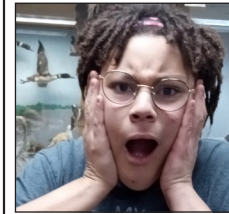
Name/Location	Position	Ext	Room #	E-Mail
Adegun, Nikki	Secretary	100		nadedgun@northome.k12.mn.us
Adelman, Steve	Custodian	106	222	sadelman@northome.k12.mn.us
Albrecht, Stephanie	PSA			salbrecht@northome.k12.mn.us
Arhart, Gracie	ADSIS Para			gahart@northome.k12.mn.us
Audio-Visual Rm			212	
Bender, Amber	Kdgn Teacher	125	100	abender@northome.k12.mn.us
Bender, Katrine	Title 1 Teacher	136	103	kbender@northome.k12.mn.us
Bolhuis, LeAnn	Math	133	309	lbolhuis@northome.k12.mn.us
Buentemeier, Cayla	PSA	897-5273	Pre-school	cbuentemeier@northome.k12.mn.us
Bus Garage	Bus Driver	161		
Carlson, Alissa	Business Manager	152	Office	alissa.carlson@isd363.org
Commons			215	
Hanson, Melanie	Choir Tchr	103	221/220	
Dietrich, Chazlynn	PSA			cdietrich@northome.k12.mn.us
Dreher, Brian	Bus Garage	161		brian.dreher@isd363.org
Dreher, Shawn	Accts Payable/Recble	154	office	shdreher@northome.k12.mn.us
Elhard, Colleen	Behavioral Health Sup.	159	212	celhard@northome.k12.mn.us
Fahey, Sara	German / PE	131	307	sfahey@northome.k12.mn.us
Fontana, Monica	Spec Ed Teacher	144	303	mfontana@northome.k12.mn.us
Furuseth, Joseph	Art / PE Teacher	108	224	jfuruset@northome.k12.mn.us
Gross, Peggy	Bus Driver	161		pgross@northome.k12.mn.us
Gym:Boys/Girls			235	
Hanson, Anette	Nurse	156	206	anette.hanson@northome.k12.mn.us
Hanson, Michael	Band Teacher	103	221/220	mihanson@kelliher.k12.mn.us
Hanson, Melanie	Choir Teacher			mehanson@kelliher.k12.mn.us
Hanson, Matthew	Soc Studies Tch/Shop	132 & 110	308 & 226	mhanson@northome.k12.mn.us
Headstart/Pre School	Headstart	Headstart Room 897-5273		bhenning@northome.k12.mn.us
Henning, Betsy	ADSIS Interventionist			
Hughes, John	Cook	102	216	jhughes@northome.k12.mn.us
Johnson, Janet	PSA	136	301	jjohnson@northome.k12.mn.us
Kallio, Becky	PSA		303	bkallio@northome.k12.mn.us
Lehn, MacKenzie	Principal	155	office	mlehn@northome.k12.mn.us
Lindner, Kim	2nd Grade Teacher	123	102	klindner@northome.k12.mn.us
Locker Room-Boys		114	236	
Locker Room-Girls			239	
Lundin, Christine	Counselor	157	208	clundin@northome.k12.mn.us
MAC Lab			303	
MATH CORPS				
Moen, Jenny	Elementary Spec. Ed.	129	110	jmoen@northome.k12.mn.us
Moen, Tyrone	6th Grade Teacher	119	106	tmoen@northome.k12.mn.us
Molnar, Anastasia	Health/Phy Ed & SS	135	Fishbowl	amolnar@northome.k12.mn.us
Olson, Miranda	3rd Grade Teacher	122	103	molson@northome.k12.mn.us
Reinarz, Jill	PSA			jreinarz@northome.k12.mn.us
Schackman, Amanda	Cook		102 216	aschackman@northome.k12.mn.us
Schneider, James	Science Teacher	115	214	jschneider@northome.k12.mn.us
Schue, Malissa	PSA			
Sears, Taylor	ADSIS Interventionist			
Skaret, Stephanie	Indian Ed. Coordinator	141		sskaret@northome.k12.mn.us
Shaughnessy, Gayle	1st Gr Teacher	124	101	gshaughnessy@northome.k12.mn.us
Spangrud, Danette	EC Teacher			
Stueven, Mitikie	Para-EC			
Tammi, Jeremy	Superintendent	153	Office	jeremy.tammi@isd363.org
Thiele, Shauntel	Speech/Language			sthiele@northome.k12.mn.us
Trisko-Schneider, Juleen	Eng Teacher	128	304	jtrisko@northome.k12.mn.us
Van Beuseksom, Lauren	5th Gr. Teacher	120	105	lvbeusekom@northome.k12.mn.us
Waldo, Wade	Custodian	106	222	wwaldo@northome.k12.mn.us
Waller, Marti	4th Gr. Teacher	121	104	mwaller@northome.k12.mn.us
Welch, Lindsey	PSA			lwelch@northome.k12.mn.us
White, Corey	Tech Coordinator	118	211	cwhite@northome.k12.mn.us
Wickum, Libby	FACS/Sp Ed	116	213	lwickum@northome.k12.mn.us

# WOULD YOU RATHER

participate in a pie eating contest



judge a pie eating contest



**Joy Adegun  
Junior**

“Judging, because then I can roast how they eat their pie.”

**Caden Troy  
Junior**



“Judge, because it depends on what kind of pie, plus so I don’t have a sugar overload.”



**Kenly Hallstrom  
Senior**

“Eat pie, because I like pie.”

**Jack Pihlaja  
Senior**



“Participate, but I wouldn’t compete as hard so I can enjoy the pie.”



**Isabella Hanson  
8th Grade**

“Judge, because I don’t want to upset my stomach.”

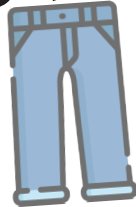
**Payton Heide  
8th Grade**



“Judge, so I don’t get messy.”

Compiled by Mariah Hanson

# MISADVENTURES WITH MARIAH



By Mariah Hanson  
The Mustang Express

When my little cousin Marissa was four, she was bad about pulling up her pants. We constantly told her, "Pull up your pants; no one wants to see your butt."

She wouldn't listen, so one day when my grandpa Rod was over, he thought it would be funny to teach her a lesson. While she was sitting on the floor playing with toys, my grandpa grabbed a pencil and dropped it down her pants.

Of course, she didn't like that, so she started pulling up her pants after that.

Well, as we all know, kids live by the rule: Monkey see, monkey do.

On a warm summer day of July, 2016, my aunt Heather, and my little cousin Marissa were at a restaurant waiting for their dinner. A portly middle aged man was sitting behind them. His butt was showing and Marissa noticed.

Marissa just kept turning

around to look at him. My aunt didn't think anything of it. That is until she saw Marissa grab a salt shaker. She was not ready for what happened next.

*Well, as we all know, kids live by the rule: Monkey see, monkey do.*

Marissa turned around and slipped a salt shaker down this man's pants. He jumped up, and pulled out the salt shaker, set it back on the table, and turned around and his face was bright red. He looked like he was about to yell at her, but then he realized that she was just a little girl and kind of giggled.

Now my aunt didn't know until later but, Marissa had been sticking more than just a salt shaker down this man's pants. Turns out all those times she turned around to "look" at him, she was actually sticking anything she could reach down his pants.

Since he was a heavier set man, there was lots of room in his pants to stick things, and he didn't even notice until the salt shaker; she was only sticking little things in his pants at first, like the wrapper of her straw.

After the salt shaker incident, he pulled up his pants. Who knows, maybe that experience was just the thing to make him buy a belt.

My aunt said the man turned out to be a super nice guy, and was chatting with them a little. I feel bad for whoever used that salt shaker next.

Now just think, every time you go to a restaurant, you have no idea where that salt shaker has been, and for heaven's sake, pull up your pants.



## Class of 2024 To Do List

### September:

- Pick class motto, song, color, flower, yearbook dedication, etc.
- Order class sweat-shirts

### October:

- Chose motto, song, color, flower, yearbook dedication which

need to be turned in by now to yearbook advisor, Ms. Trisko at [jtrisko@northome.k12.mn.us](mailto:jtrisko@northome.k12.mn.us).

### November:

- Take a senior class picture.
- Apply for colleges!

### January:

- Design and order sweatshirts.
- Start brainstorming ideas for and planning your class trip! (Try starting at least two months before you want to go on it.) You must go to a school board meet-

ing about it at least a month beforehand.

### March:

- Choose speaker for graduation (Since it is Memorial Day weekend and many people have family plans, you may find your first choice cannot do it.

- Order caps, stoles, and tassels

### April:

- Start planning baccalaureate; make a planning committee.
- Schedule date and time, make programs, talk to chosen church officials, pick readers.

- Attend school board meeting before trip so you have it approved!

- Get class graduation party schedule so no two parties overlap.

### May:

- Order flowers to hand out to parents at graduation.

- Buy decorations for graduation.

- For valedictorian and salutatorian, write speeches! You must submit them to the principal.



## SENIOR PROFILE

# 2024



## Geneva Sky Holcomb

**Nicknames:** Neva, nevs

**Years at this school:** 14 years (repeated kindergarten).

**Person(s) who helped you through the years:** my parents, and my friends.

**Thoughts on your class:** We are a calm group.

**After school activities:** Knowledge bowl 10-12, Brain Bee 10-12, band 7-12, choir 7-12 German club 9-11, track 10-12, science club 10-12, Honor Society 9-12 and robotics 11-12

**Hobbies:** I like embroidering mostly little ducks on my close, reading, crochet, and working at Raphael's Bakery.

**Most challenging task as a senior so far this year:** Managing everything that comes with being a senior

**Favorite teacher or class:** Schneider is my favorite teacher but my favorite class was history

**Favorite school memory:** Watching Disney movies during lunch in ninth grade

**One thing you would change about the school:** Less time in the lunchroom in the morning

**Favorite elementary memory:** Mr. Swang singing, "Shinny" from *Moana*

**Advice for the following classes:** Don't give your teacher a lot of problems; they are here to help you and need a break from your foolishness from time to time.